BACK PAGE

A day in the life of a social worker

This is a typical day in the life of a social welfare worker. On her desk there are three sheets of paper with work for her to do. She must visit the Kunz family in Bechstein. Their sixteen-year-old son Klaus has been caught stealing from a large store for the third time and has been handed over to the police.

When minors go shop-lifting the police call in social welfare workers. Family has to be checked. Usually there is something behind it when a young person breaks the law. Perhaps his parents' marriage is on the rocks and he has not been given sufficient love and attention.

Her second task for the day is a psychiatric consultation at the health office which is carried put twice a year under the auspices of a specialist from the University clinic and is invaluable for her as a social welfare worker embarking on therapeutic measures.

Her third "date" is for the afternoon. Working with the local official doctor she will carry out tests on children starting school in five localities, including sight and hearing tests and a general health check up. In addition to this there will be studies of the children in the fourth and eighth school year. In the eighth year there will be primary consultations on future careers and a special report will have to be drawn up.

She is one of seven social welfare workers in a district where 88,000 persons live. In this district there is no division into youth, health, and social welfare but all is included under the general heading "family welfare".

Although her profession has been given a somewhat more attractive styling in German this has not helped recruiting greatly and there is still a lack of new blood for the social welfare offices of the future, particularly for work in rural communities.

Most women social welfare workers who have to do practical work and six semesters at a special college for social welfare studies see the best opportunities for their profession in the big cities.

After the compulsory year of practical work under the direction of an experienced member of their profession in a specialised sphere they turn themselves to a specialised aspect of social welfare work, for instance in juvenile courts or in marriage guidance.

In the district in which our subject works general family welfare is still carried out by the seven women workers, who are of the opinion that this method is more successful and promising than specialisation.

Naturally they also had the opportunity of carrying out their work for society with an independent charitable organisation, in the welfare section of a firm, in prisons or hospitals or in the career advice section of the employment office. Or they could have extended their studies within the ranks of the criminal investigation department of the police.

Instead they have decided to become a jack of all trades and their varied work takes them to varying places of work. They drift from the health office to family homes, to schools and to kindergartens.

In the next few weeks two of them will be on duty away from home. They will be accompanying children from their district visiting a spa on the North Sea and their work will be shared by the five who remain at home.

Some of the work they will leave behind is as follows: Mr K. from Burgholz will be taken at his family's request to a centre which cares for alcoholics. In a neighbouring village the M. family must be taken care of since the head of the family has been sent to prison for five years.

In another village twenty miles away a family must be persuaded to allow their foster child who is suffering from mental disorders to be taken to a clinic.

The neglected children of a teenage married couple in Langenheim must be given care and attention and it is hoped that their grandmother will take charge. The burgomaster of Bergen has reported that the children of the S. family aged between two and seven are left alone all day and have to beg for their mid-day meal. Their mother must be persuaded to give up her job even through the family is in debt and support must be provided for them.

There are 750 wards who have to be visited regularly. The living conditions of the E. family in Elbach must be investigated since they have agreed to look after an old crippled woman.

The week after next the social welfare team will be reduced in numbers again. At the psychosomatic clinic of the University courses are being held for further training of social welfare workers. This is important since so far very few workers have been able to help out in such cases where such training would prove val[uable].

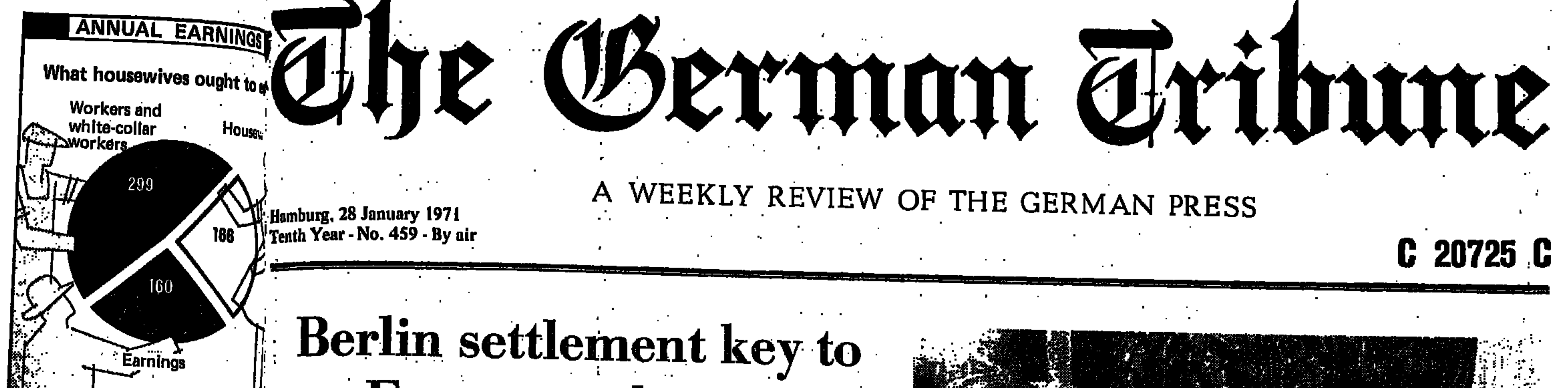
As always there is too little time; shortage of staff for preventive mea[sures] to be taken.

What use would it be to make an[y] diagnosis of speech defects in childr[en] spasticity if the essential therap[y] establishments were lacking throug[hout] the whole Federal state. Sometime[s the] work of these seven women resem[bles] the labours of Hercules.

Their work is highly valued and [help] from them is awaited with great expe[cta]tions. Mothers with babies in arms t[rust] them as much as doctors.

Glesela Stvkovki

(DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 20 December)



Housewives are the most 'under[paid]' members of our society. A [recent] survey showed that women i[n the] homes should have been paid [...] thousand million Marks for the [work] they do and the responsibilities [they] undertake.

The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 28 January 1971
Tenth Year - No. 459 - By air

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Berlin settlement key to European detente

There they sit, the Americans, the Russians, the British and French too, and the Germans, hating each other's guts, playing poker with the Eastern policy as though they were gathered together in the back room of a saloon in the Wild West.

Their expressions are tense. They bluff, lament and occasionally thump their fists on the table. The stakes are high, the game – which no longer warrants the name – is risky. West Berlin, half a city, is at stake and no one has all the aces in his hand.

In political terms the hands are as follows: the new round of talks between the ambassadors of the Four Powers on Berlin coincides with a general worsening of the climate of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Bonn Opposition politician Gerhard Schröder is accorded a cordial reception in Moscow, Walter Ulbricht's Socialist Unity Party (SED) levels grave accusations at Bonn, Bonn replies in no uncertain terms.

A GDR delegation pays the Kremlin a lightning visit and East Berlin makes a surprise offer of a fresh meeting between State Secretaries Egon Bahr and Michael Kohl.

A man who is considered to have been an enthusiatic co-drafter of the Moscow Treaty is officially appointed Soviet ambassador-designate in this country.

In the end, though – for the time being at least – East Berlin again brusquely rejects any manner of intra-German rapprochement.

The unaccustomed observer is nothing if not, confused, losing the thread in the flurry of diplomatic manoeuvres.

The heart of the matter is this: the Soviet Union would like to see the Treaty with this country ratified as soon as possible and realises that this can only be achieved in return for a treaty status for West Berlin.

In principle it is not adverse to so doing but is being kicked under the card table by its partner, the GDR, whose trump card in gaining full diplomatic recognition by Bonn is in danger of failing to make game.

This, in addition to the GDR's insatiable desire for sovereignty, the major handicap in the way of progress for the Bonn Federal government's new directions in policy towards the Eastern Bloc.

It is surprising how little attention has been paid to this factor. For a long time Herr Ulbricht had every reason to believe that he would be able to achieve his heart's desire, politically speaking, in return for a Berlin settlement that appeared acceptable to the West.

He was able to do so not least because in the final analysis the Federal government's policy amounted to precisely this last remaining bargain: a Berlin settlement in return for recognition of the GDR.

In view of the Berlin proviso made by Bonn in connection with the Moscow Treaty and acknowledged in principle by the Soviet Union the GDR now runs the risk of failing for the time being to reach its major political target.

It suspects that recognition will not be such an urgent matter in this country once a Berlin settlement has been reached that is satisfactory as far as Bonn and the West are concerned.

This is why the GDR is playing such a tough game at present and why Walter Ulbricht is doing his level best to get more than a foot inside the Berlin door.

It may well be that East Berlin omissary Michael Kohl's surprise visit to Bonn on 15 January had this aim in mind. There can certainly be no doubt that there will be no Berlin settlement without the GDR – and, regardless how Herr Ulbricht visualises the situation, none without the Western Allies either.

Bonn's position is not as bad as the Opposition Christian Democrats would like to make out. Bonn, refusing to allow the others to make the running, has firmly rejected East Berlin's accusations.

In this country Bonn's more insistent approach has been partly misunderstood as the possible beginning of a change of course by the government on Eastern policy.

Yet anyone who consistently pursues a political course may find himself obliged energetically to defend it. This is all that the Federal government has been doing.

Both Bonn and the Soviet Union are interested in seeing the Moscow Treaty through the Bundestag as soon as possible but this will only be possible provided the Kremlin agrees to an agreement on West Berlin.

For the first time in 25 years there is a prospect of reaching a binding agreement on the security of West Berlin. This in itself represents a new era. In the circumstances Bonn would be ill-advised to change course now.

The Opposition's demand that ratification of the Moscow Treaty be made dependent on an improvement in intra-German relations would jeopardise the prospects of a Berlin settlement and the beginnings of detente in Europe that it entails.

Walter Ulbricht will hear nothing of the idea, as he plainly reiterated in a speech published on 14 January. Neither would the Russians, the Americans, the British and the French. No one wants to be involved in internecine German quarrels again.

In Berlin, on the other hand, the Western Allies are directly involved and their prestige is at stake. This is the only trump this country can still put to good use.

Hundreds of times though it may have been said it must continually be pointed out that there are accrued ties and links between West Berlin and the Federal Republic.

This status has become as much of a reality as the GDR has as a state. Both Moscow and the GDR will have to take this fact into account and act accordingly. As far as this aspect goes Bonn cannot yield another inch.

Egon Bahr will have told Michael Kohl this on 15 January and will reiterate it on 26 January at the next meeting.

There is no getting away from the fact that the handling of the Berlin question will show how seriously the countries concerned are interested in safeguarding peace in Europe.

Hans Jörg Sottorf

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 16 January 1971)



U.S. Senator in Bonn

Averell Harriman, Foreign Minister Walter Scheel, Senator Edmund Muskie and Chancellor Willy Brandt had talks on Ostpolitik in Bonn on 17 January. Senator Muskie flew to Bonn from Moscow where he had been on a fact-finding tour.

(Photo: J.H. Darchinger)

IN THIS ISSUE

Foreign policy globe-trotters

Directions have been changed among political travellers. Gerhard Schröder of the Opposition Christian Democrats has flown to Moscow while Chancellor Willy Brandt is preparing for his trip to Washington.

Karl Moersch of the Foreign Office has headed for London in advance of Foreign Minister Walter Scheel and leading Cabinet Ministers will be off to Paris at the end of the month while Christian Democrat parliamentary party leader Rainer Barzel is planning to visit Warsaw.

This change of direction is, of course, only apparent but there can be no doubt that reaffirmation of Western approval for Bonn's Eastern policy must be one of the Federal government's main aims in the New Year and that the Opposition must first gain first-hand on-the-spot impressions before passing final judgment on the Moscow and Warsaw treaties.

Travel, it will be recalled, is supposed to broaden the mind, so it can only be hoped that foreign policy clashes this year will bear witness to a little more objectivity.

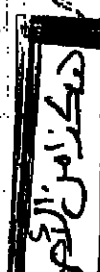
The way in which the foreign policy debate has been exploited over the last twelve months as a lever in domestic political agitation can hardly have done the country much good abroad.

The considered alarm sounded by Richard von Weizäcker and the study published by this institute ought also to put matters back into perspective and make it clear to even the wildest political agitator that over and above tactical considerations it is, in the long term, a matter of this country's survival as an industrial country and of keeping the peace in Central Europe.

Undisguisedly gleeful comments to the effect that Eastern policy is proving to be a more difficult business than the initial impetus made appear probable are as out of place as ironic cuts that the Christian Democrats at long last seem to have discovered Moscow and Warsaw on the political map.

The ruling coalition will be bearing in mind that Gerhard Schröder may not only have formed a more considered opinion of its Eastern policy but also that he will have made his mark in Moscow as a leading Opposition foreign policy spokesman.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 14 January 1971)





FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Detente in world affairs still seems a long way off

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Detente would still seem to be the main catchword in world affairs at the moment. It is as though tacit agreement had been reached on this and the corresponding phrase in other languages as the lowest common denominator of a large number and variety of foreign policy efforts.

The target is not so ambitious as cooperation, harmony or peace. Even coexistence, at one time an important item of political vocabulary, has yielded to a word which at least implies that there is tension to start with.

Relaxation of tension could mean a great deal, though, smoothing the path for something more specific and substantial. But is it still the appropriate term?

Possibly because of the gradual nature of the concept it can continue to be used even when the state of affairs in which it became predominant no longer quite exists, indeed, when the "de" in detente threatens to become the reverse.

Without the change having been heralded by spectacular events the situation as regards relaxation of tension has indeed taken a turn for the worse in comparison with the first half of last year.

In February 1970 President Nixon felt able to forecast, in a speech to Congress, that the seventies would be an era of negotiations and to announce a strategy for peace.

There were high hopes of the Salt talks, which following the non-proliferation treaty that had just come into force were to bring about a substantial limitation of the nuclear arms race. They were the first official and exclusively bilateral talks of their kind between world powers.

The withdrawal of American troops from the Far East was under way and talk of troop reductions in Europe was also viewed as a part of detente.

Last but not least this country's policy towards the Eastern Bloc brought Bonn into line with its allies following frequent laments that this was not the case.

Yet when the second half of the year drew to a close a great deal looked altogether different. The Salt talks had led to no result and only recently President Nixon cautiously held forth only the prospect of partial agreement on nuclear limitations at best.

US and Nato pundits had begun to warn against a growing military imbalance between the blocs to the West's disadvantage. Far-reaching US troop cuts in Europe are no longer on the cards and European members of Nato are increasingly being called upon to boost their own defence outlay.

Despite the advance concessions made by the United States Vietnam is no nearer peace. The Middle East situation has worsened and continued Soviet arms supplies to Arab countries have been followed by American deliveries to Israel.

At the same time the repercussions of the attendant increase in Soviet naval presence in the Mediterranean first made its presence firmly felt after Mr Nixon's visit to Italy, President Tito, the Sixth Fleet and Spain.

Many American observers came to consider Bonn's Eastern policy to be less a contribution to detente than a welcome initiative (from Moscow's point of view) making the Kremlin feel attempts to bring about a relaxation of tension with Washington in terms of nuclear agreements and a peace settlement in the Middle East and elsewhere to be less urgent.

What, then, is the situation as regard-detente? Can it still be regarded as a characteristic of the present international political scene or are we well on the way to a return to cold war?

The limited range of detente formulas has at all events become apparent. Little has been achieved in the way of progress. In the final analysis detente, like peace, is indivisible.

Washington and Moscow still have the last word and the climate of opinion between these two has taken a turn for the worse.

The most specific contribution towards relaxation of tension between the blocs may well have been Bonn's as yet unratified treaties with Moscow and Warsaw, eliminating as they do a possible local trouble spot by means of painful acts of renunciation on this country's part.

But even they can only be effective as a contribution to detente in world terms provided developments in East-West relations progress accordingly in other sectors too.

In the long run it is inconceivable that a further-reaching relaxation of tension between the Federal Republic of Germany and its neighbours to the East might be accompanied by a reactivation or intensification of tension between the Soviet Union and the United States or even a return to Cold War.

As long as this is the case a trend that threatens to undermine the foundations of the modest target of detente in world affairs can only be viewed with anxiety.

Nikolas Benckiser

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 12 January 1971)

Moscow's new man in Bonn

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG
Industriekurier

Valentin Falin, head of the th European department at the Sov Foreign Ministry, was given his agréme by the Federal government in Bonn on 1 January.

He will be the fourth Soviet ambas dor in Bonn in succession to Ambassado Zorin, Smirnov and Tsarapkin.

He will presumably take over fro 64-year-old Semyon Tsarapkin some tim this spring. After five years at the Sov embassy in Rolandseck Tsarapkin is d for retirement.

Unlike his predecessor Falin has th reputation of being an expert on th country. He speaks first-rate Germ occasionally even corrects the interprete and was some years at the Soviet emba in Vietnam.

Forty-five years old, tall, slender austere in expression, Falin is no unknown quantity as far as his oppo numbers in Bonn are concerned.

As his department is mainly respons for German affairs he was a key figur last August's Moscow talks betwe Foreign Ministers Scheel and Gromyk gaining the nickname "Gromyko's b pupil."

He will of course be as tough as predecessor in representing Soviet i terests. Ambassador Tsarapkin has oft resorted to undiplomatic language in attacks on this country but is reputed have a brittle charm. Falin is likely to more urbane and definite in what he say

His appointment could be a sign th despite present difficulties Moscow faith in the relaxation of tension wi Bonn.

(Handelsblatt, 14 January 1971)

Berlin, Brussels and the Bonn–Paris talks

President Pompidou voiced a noteworthy sentiment in the course of an after-dinner speech during the last full-scale Franco-Federal Republic consultations last summer.

This time, he said, there had been something different about the talks. Discussions had not only been cordial (that they had been for years); "We have dealt with the problems in hand both in detail and with the intention of going into detail and reaching a solution."

It was, he continued, self-evident that in a situation such as this differences of opinion would come to light "but the mere fact that they are allowed to to so lays the groundwork for agreement on a common policy."

Not long after the consultations in Bonn Chancellor Brandt signed the Moscow and Warsaw treaties. M. Pompidou also visited the Soviet Union and French Premier Jacques Chaban-Delmas visited the Polish capital

Splendid progress was made towards Western European integration last autumn but for the time being work on a currency union has come to a standstill.

Since the consultations, then, events have occured that make one wonder to what extent in-depth discussion arrived at joint solutions and where difference of opinion remained.

The French President did not mention differences of opinion with the intention of emphasising them as something serious; he was fascinated, or perhaps satisfied, by the frankness of the consultations.

Willy Brandt's Eastern policy partly owes the approval in principle it has been given by France to the extent to which it is in accord with ideas of de Gaulle to which M. Pompidou is adhering more strictly than many people had expected.

This approval is not mere lip service, though. But the extent to which Bonn has gained leeway by means of its policy towards the Eastern Bloc has naturally caused France to consider what effect developments may have on Paris's role.

What de Gaulle conceived of as France putting in a good word for this country must now become Franco-Federal Republic cooperation.

Initially it looked as though the two were entering into competition, not to say a race, as regards relations with the East but French sceptics have meanwhile noticed that Bonn's Eastern European trees are not growing tall enough to obscure France's view.

M. Pompidou is out to ensure that France retains some leeway in world affairs but has no delusions of grandeur.

He is over and above his government, a faithful trustee of the presidential powers worked out by de Gaulle. As such he occasionally sounds a note slightly different from that of his Ministers.

In a New Year address he announced, for instance, to the astonishment of all and sundry that the Berlin question has been exaggerated. Has he changed his mind?

On this point the most obvious difference of opinion is with Premier Chaban-Delmas and Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann, who in Warsaw and at a Nato conference respectively made a Berlin settlement the sine qua non of a European security conference.

President Pompidou on the other hand sees the Berlin question, as he himself put it, as more a matter of political climate than of principle.

Bonn and Paris must now clarify what is considered to be the minimum for a satisfactory Berlin settlement. It looks as though M. Pompidou feels that the Four Powers must confirm the present position but cannot attempt to come to any new agreement.

In Moscow he expressly explained that France forms an integral part of Western Europe and despite Soviet objections advocates British membership of the Common Market. At the same time he is opposed to the degree of political integration necessary to crown the achievements of the Economic Community by establishing a currency union.

This will no doubt gratify Moscow but M. Pompidou is not worried. He is not of this opinion merely because it pleases the Soviet Union. He feels that France's interests can only be upheld in inviolate sovereignty.

Much though Moscow may be delighted at the prospect of conflict over principles in the Common Market this country, France's partner, cannot relish the idea.

It can but be hoped that M. Pompidou's sense of pragmatism will prevail and that he will recall his pledge to ensure that the EEC flourishes, with all the obligations that that entails during the months that France chairs the Comm Market Council of Ministers.

Development of the European Ec nomic Community into an economic currency union is the more difficult the two major topics due for discussi at the forthcoming Paris round of Franco Federal Republic consultations.

Insofar as Eastern policy can only develop as long as its basis in the West i broad and secure it is also the mo important of the two.

The Paris talks will certainly get to th heart of the matter, as M. Pompidou wa delighted to find the last round to hav done. There is absolutely no reason wh they should not.

Maxim Fackler

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 12 January 1971)

The German Tribune

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HOME AFFAIRS

CDU – a party in search of a chancellorship candidate

Hannoversche Allgemeine

When Kurt Georg Kiesinger failed to win a return ticket to Palais Schaumburg, the Chancellor's official residence, in autumn 1969 he had to all intents and purposes also lost the leadership of his party, the Christian Democrats.

At the party political conference in Mainz his position as chairman was confirmed but this was a decision which lacked conviction in the rank and file of the party. No doubt was left in Mainz that Kiesinger, like his predecessors, always understood his position to be Chancellor of the Federal Republic and by virtue of this chairman of the CDU as well.

He was not the kind of man to which any party that had governed in Bonn for an uninterrupted twenty years and had suddenly lost their lofty position could show their trust and confidence.

As a result of the election debacle Kiesinger was, of necessity, pushed into the background, in the Bundestag by Rainer Barzel, in the party by Bruno Heck, Helmut Kohl and Gerhard Stoltenberg.

Kiesinger's star plunged quickly from the CDU heavens and since then the party has had no means of steering the ship. It is like an orchestra that has never payed particularly harmoniously and is now looking all around to try to find a generally accepted and respected conductor to hold the musicians together.

Parties in a democratic state cannot do without a strong personality to guide them and lead them, however much store is set by teamwork.

Nevertheless however much CDU members have to a man realised especially since the Mainz conference that the leadership problem must be solved by this autumn, the party seems to be very reluctant to prepare itself for the difficult decision.

If it were not for the fact that from time to time declarations that reveal nervousness about forecoming elections were released to the public by the leading contenders for the position, Rainer Barzel and Helmut Kohl, it might be suspected that with the decline fast approaching the party had decided to leave the difficult choice to whatever guardian angle watches over it.

It does not even seem to have been definitively decided whether the party will stick to former practice or whether they will elect a party chairman and a separate candidate for the Palais Schaumburg – that is to say the chancellorship.

Now that Gerhard Stoltenberg and presumably Heinrich Köppler as well have stepped up their involvement on a Federal state level and therefore seem to have lowered their sights on the national scene Barzel and his colleagues in the parliamentary party have unmistakably increased the pace.

They are obviously hoping that their main rival, Kohl, who is still tied up by the forthcoming provincial assembly elections in the Rhineland-Palatinate, can be pushed to one side so that they can nominate their candidate for the chancellorship before the party political conference in Hamburg.

The man in question could only be Rainer Barzel since he would have been selected by the parliamentary party. It is a vain pursuit to speculate on Barzel's other intentions such as whether he considers the additional position of party chairmanship not worth struggling for or not. If he does not aim for the party chairmanship it is all the more obvious that he will appear in Hamburg as a readymade candidate for the chancellorship.

Quite apart from the Barzel-Kohl battle the CDU should attempt to nip in the bud manoeuvres to undermine the party political conference which is the most powerful body of a democratic party.

Since all the signs are that the present government in Bonn will survive the next few months their seems no need for excessively hasty action. The Düsseldorf party conference would provide an opportunity for defusing all speculation. In the meantime, however, the main item on the CDU's agenda, particularly in its more far-flung regions, should be a more intensive study of the question of who is to follow Kurt Georg Kiesinger, and what is more important, who is to lead the campaign against Brandt.

Although the choice of a candidate for chancellor is made easier by experience already gained in Bonn it could be fatal for the CDU if they forgot that one of the first duties for their candidate for the chancellorship is to win the election for them.

Christian Democrat members who are full of praise for Rainer Barzel in his capacity as parliamentary party leader tend to shrug their shoulders when his name is mentioned in connection with Palais Schaumburg.

No one denies that Barzel is an outstanding and effective leader of the Opposition. But he is not popular. Occasional rather pathetic stylistic frills cannot hide the fact that he is generally regarded as the smooth managerial type who gives his audience the uncomfortable impression that the next day he could be saying exactly the opposite with equal eloquence. In the age of television cameras that strip a politician bare this is a grave fault.

The almost perfect complement to Barzel as a possible candidate for the chancellorship would be Helmut Kohl as party chairman if he were prepared to let his ambitions rest with this position. But both feel themselves called to the duty of leading the next Federal government and capable of doing so.

Kurt Georg Kiesinger (left), Helmut Kohl and Rainer Barzel, all possible CDU candidates for the chancellorship (Photo: AP)

Kohl gives credible indications that conservative and progressive ideas can go hand in hand, and he would without doubt prove a good party secretary and even a good chancellor if it were simply a question of providing the CDU's challenge to the SPD programme of domestic reforms.

However, anyone who is toying with the idea of handing out these two leading positions to Rainer Barzel and Helmut Kohl must accept that by so doing he is putting a severe burden on the party's shoulders.

There are those who would consider this dual leadership too risky, but they would not like to vote for either Barzel alone nor Kohl on his own. They would have to search for an alternative and in so doing they would frequently come up against one name.

The man in question has proved to CDU members in all four corners of the country that he has outstanding qualifications but he is a man whom they – and heaven knows why – cannot trust to overcome the obstacles within the party. The man in question has already spent many years as Minister of the Interior, Foreign Minister and Minister of Defence, Gerhard Schröder.

He is in many ways a phenomenon. He is the only one of the old guard of CDU ministers who managed to hold a place in the tight party leadership committee at the Mainz party political conference. He voluntarily chose to take a seat on the back benches in the Bundestag and did not give up his, obviously tactical, "vow of silence" in the Bundestag even when his friends in the party started to believe that this was a sign of resignation. It is possible that this loner, who has been awaiting his chance for more than ten years, has become accustomed to the waiting game to such an extent that he is missing the chance now it is finally on the way, and that he will see the crown snatched from before his eyes by younger party members.

Whether his reticence is making the CDU forget that with a now fully recovered Schröder they have a trump card to play is something that time alone will tell.

At any rate this man with years of ministerial experience can scarcely be outdone by anyone on the important field for the Federal Republic of foreign policy. The fact that he has just undertaken a trip to Moscow adds weight to the theory that he is a strong politician in precisely that sphere where he is not accepted by his colleagues as an ally.

On the domestic policy scene Schröder has managed to boost the respect of friend and foe alike for him by the noble manner in which he took two severe defeats, firstly for election as president and secondly election to the Bundestag presidency.

His carefully weighed-up and always well tempered statements have earned him the reputation of a fair and responsible statesman. He has long since thrown off the aggressiveness that marked his years in the Ministry of the Interior.

Joint efforts, particularly in the sphere of foreign policy have always struck him as more essential than irreconcilable polarisation.

Schröder is, therefore, a glowing example of the modern conservative since he never looses his sense of proportion and always keeps an open mind about vital new ideas.

Without doubt Gerhard Schröder is a man who often makes it unnecessarily difficult for even his friends to get to understand him.

This does not excuse a party that wants to return to power from its duty to force him to show his hand at least within the party and say whether he is still at their disposal.

Is there any reason why a party should rule out a loner, particularly when this loner might be a convincing alternative to Willy Brandt as chancellor? After all Adenauer was a loner.

Ludwig Harms

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 13 January 1971)

Young Christian Democrats less embarrassing to the party

Young Socialists and Young Democrats have been causing their respective senior parties more difficulties for some time than the *Junge Union* has been causing the Christian Democrats.

This situation was in no way changed when the leadership of the *Junge Union* was transferred from Egon Klepsch to Jürgen Echternach of Hamburg. But the young rightwingers have achieved greater self-awareness.

In addition to this the opportunity they have for influencing the parent party have increased since the CDU took up the Opposition benches. However, the young people in the CDU have not intention of tearing up the CDU committee's draft programme, but will simply try to influence it.

The young CDU members in contrast to the young Socialists and young Free Democrats are showing more sense of political proportion. Directly proportional to the age of members the *Junge Union* is fighting for a more suitable understanding of the term democracy, that is to say for democratic development from below.

At the same time the young rightwingers reject secretary-general Bruno Heck's interpretation of democracy as a mere form of State organisation.

This is particularly true of the party's education policy in which the *Junge Union* will leave no stone unturned to achieve equality of opportunity.

As far as *Soziale Marktwirtschaft* (this country's system of free market economy) is concerned the young Christian Democrats call for greater emphasis to be laid on the "sozial" aspect and with this attitude they are doubtless more in agreement with the original draft plan drawn up by Helmut Kohl.

The fact that they point to the necessity of granting recognition to the Oder-Neisse line and perhaps to the German Democratic Republic as well can be taken as a warning to the party that it must be prepared to make a few sacrifices in its foreign policy.

(Handelsblatt, 12 January 1971)

■ THE PAST

German Empire founded a century ago

The German Reich came into existence one hundred years ago on 1 January 1871 when the constitution came into force. But the Reich was still incomplete – the treaties with the South German states had yet to be signed.

There was a two-fold process leading to the drawing up of the constitution. On the one hand there were the monarchic, federalist powers and on the other the parliamentary powers. There were the princes who concluded the treaty and the parliaments who decided that they were to be concluded.

The basis of the constitution of the North German Federation, ratified by the North German Imperial Diet a year after the Six Weeks War against Austria in 1866, were Prussia's treaties with the states of North and Central Germany.

Bismarck had his way when the constitution was drawn up and it was fashioned so that the South German states of Bavaria, Württemberg, Hesse and Baden could later join. At that time they remained independent though they had concluded military alliances with Prussia.

The majority of the population of the southern states too viewed the war against France that began in July 1870 as a national war. Their participation in the war was a step on the way toward unification.

But the South German monarchies and their governments hesitated and some were in plain opposition. But the pressure of a passionate national movement grew from below.

This mood received powerful impetus following the victory at Sedan on 2 September, the capture of Napoleon III and the collapse of the French Empire. Bismarck could then have concluded an immediate peace – but that would have meant no annexation.

The army however secretly demanded the acquisition of Alsace and Lorraine for strategic reasons. The national movement demanded the territories loudly as a reward for victory.

Bismarck agreed to their demands primarily for tactical reasons. He later regretted this. The war continued and the victorious summer campaign became a hard winter campaign.

Bismarck wanted to win over the southern states to his proposals for unification but he did not want to force them. But he used the change of mood after Sedan to accelerate the process. The date he planned for the foundation of the Empire was 1 January 1871.

Bismarck negotiated in three levels – with representatives of the South German governments, with the North German Diet and parties and with foreign countries. Whatever one's views on the foundation of the Empire, it has to be admitted that Bismarck's technique was ingenious.

Treaties with Baden and Hesse were concluded on 15 November in Versailles, the Prussian headquarters during the siege of Paris.

Negotiations with Württemberg and Bavaria were far more tricky. Both states demanded special privileges, especially Bavaria.

Negotiations were complicated by the fact that the federalist interests of the monarchies had to be harmonised with the interests of the provincial parliaments.

But this conflict also offered the opportunity of playing off the two sides against each other. The treaty with Bavaria was signed on 23 November and the treaty with Württemberg followed on 25 November.

On 9 December the North German Diet, which did not yet include any South German members, accepted almost unanimously the treaties with Baden, Hesse and Württemberg and the constitution, which was very much like that of the North German Federation.

Only the majority for the treaty with Bavaria was in doubt. But there was a majority, largely because of the party discipline showed by the National Liberals.

They thus accepted a constitution consisting of texts that were still incomplete and four treaties with the Southern states.

On the same day Eduard Lasker, a National Liberal deputy, wrote to Otto Elben, a party colleague from Württemberg, "At last there is a German state... History no longer knows any German question." The actual date of the foundation of the Empire was therefore 9 December 1870.

But no sooner was the constitution accepted than it was changed. It had still spoken of the German Federation and the Federal presidency that lay in the hands of the King of Prussia. These terms were replaced by Reich and Kaiser, designations that had been valid up to 1806.

The King of Bavaria was to offer the King of Prussia the imperial crown. After the experiences of 1848 no one wanted to leave this to parliament. Besides, it corresponded with monarchic ideas.

On 18 December in Versailles a deputation of the North German Diet, concurring with Germany's princes, asked King Wilhelm of Prussia to consecrate the work of unification by accepting the imperial crown.

As there was no imperial crown however, a coronation was not possible. But there had to be a symbolic act of investiture as this corresponded with the national mood of the times.

At the suggestion of the Crown Pince, 18 January was chosen for the proclamation of Kaiser, as it was called. On the same date 170 years earlier Elector Frederick III of Brandenburg had been crowned King in Prussia.

The proclamation of Kaiser was a courtly, military affair that took place in Versailles' Hall of Mirrors. One of Bismarck's ghostwriters remarked that the empire was not born on 18 January, but baptised.

Three days later the Bavarian parliament ratified the treaty setting forth the constitution with two votes above the two-thirds majority.

The first German Reichstag was elected

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The proclamation of William as Kaiser of the German Empire in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles 1871, the painting by Anton von Werner. (Photo: Ullstein/Hanfstaengl)

Eighteen authors sum up 25 years of German history

Eine Deutschland-Bilanz, edited by Karl Dietrich Bracher. Published by Kindler of Munich. 383 pages. Price 16.80 Marks.

The conclusions drawn about the development of this country since 1945 in this collection of essays are on the whole negative, which is not surprising considering some of the eighteen authors who have contributed to the volume.

It is well known that Sebastian Haffner long viewed the Federal Republic's foreign policy with scepticism. It is well known what liberal educationalist Hildegard Hamm-Brücher thinks of educational policy here.

We know how discontented Otto Brenner is with social developments and how Theo Pirker views the work of the trades unions.

None of them sings songs of praise glorifying the Federal Republic. But they do not just indulge in polemics, attacking everything around them. They try to adopt critical distance and make well-founded analyses.

The volume contains information on urban building, the Churches, research, culture and education. The book surveys many subjects in condensed form,

Sebastian Haffner takes A.J.P. Taylor's theory "Nobody can understand the Germans without taking into consideration their desire to imitate everything Western; and nobody will understand the Germans if he ignores the other side of the coin – their stubborn desire to annihilate everything Eastern," and tries to prove that it also applies to the Federal Republic.

This theory is obviously not true for the Federal Republic when stated as extremely as this. But on one point Haffner agrees with other authors such as Manfred Rexin and Helmut Lindemann – Adenauer's government made the mistake in 1952 of not taking up Stalin's offer of reunification in exchange for non-entry of the Western alliance.

Two other contributors – Leo Brawand and Otto Brenner – accuse the Christian Democrat government of omissions in the economic and social fields.

They state that the enthusiastically extolled market economy could never have been described as "social".

Leo Brawand, an editor of the weekly *Spiegel*, calculated for example that the small group of less than three million self-employed in the Federal Republic had by 1966 already amassed about seventy per cent of wealth gained since the war.

Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, the Free Democrat politician, sees four phases in the development of educational policy during the 25-year period.

First come the allied demands for equal educational opportunities for all children.

The second stage was the reconstruction of a system that was hostile to reform. This lasted until the end of the fifties.

In the first half of the sixties came the third stage with the start of criticism from such people as Edding, Picht, Dahrendorf and Erlinghagen. The fourth stage was student protest and the start of far-reaching reform.

Like Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, Walter Schmieding divides his survey of the cultural scene since 1945 into seven phases.

At the end of the forties the first cultural fruits of the post-war era such as Wolfgang Borchert's *Draußen vor der Tür* (The Man Outside) and Carl Zuckmayer's *Des Teufels General* (The Devil's General) were past.

Then Gustav Gründgens and Wilhelm Furtwängler, the two most brilliant figures in theatrical and musical life in the Third Reich, returned to the scene.

In the mid-fifties, after the deaths of Thomas Mann, Gottfried Benn and Bertolt Brecht, Max Frisch and Friedrich Dürrenmatt, both Swiss, surged to the forefront.

Then came Heinrich Böll, Günter Grass and Erich Kuby, the first critics of a middle-class society that was felt to be well meaning.

The next stage was dominated by literature of a documentary nature – Rolf Hochhuth's *Representative* and Grass' *The Plebeians Rehearse the Uprising*.

Finally, at the end of the sixties intellectuals were infected by a mood that is best expressed in the title of a Alexander Kluge film – *Artists in a Big Top – What are they to do?*

Walter Schmiedling complains of the lack of social commitment in most of the country's cultural life. Rudolf Hillebrecht regrets that this is also the case in urban building.

He criticises the fact that since 1949 the Bundestag has not once seen fit to discuss the political principles and aspects of regional planning and municipal building policy according to which a seriously devastated country was to be rebuilt.

The other contributions deal with the armed forces (Bogislaw von Bonin), the party system in Bonn (Karl Dietrich Bracher), trades unions (Theo Pirker), the expellees (Dietrich Strothmann), the state of the press (Karl Hermann Flach), the Catholic and Protestant Churches (Karl Otmar Freiherr von Aretin and Heinz Kloppenburg), the State and administration (Thomas Ellwein), the legal situation (Richard Schmid) and research in the Federal Republic (Frederic Vester).

(Das Parlament, 2 January 1971)

■ PROFILE

Gustav Heinemann brings a wind of change into the presidency

The photograph of a Gustav Heinemann who does not mind taking an occasional swig from a beer bottle should provide one of the final touches on the public's picture of him as a President of the people.

His eager advertising agents hope so anyway. This would also be welcome to Heinemann even though he says defensively, "I didn't invent the title."

People have busily been painting the portrait of a man who intentionally avoids the semblance of glory surrounding a head of state and instead mixes with the public.

There have indeed been many changes at the Villa Hammerschmidt in Bonn. Things that had not occurred there before became part of everyday routine. Receptions for distinguished guests alternated with invitations to the "ordinary people". There were discussions with artisans and students.

But, consciously or not, there was always a slight suggestion of intentional flirting. It seemed as if Gustav Heinemann wanted to prove to the large section of the public who viewed his behaviour critically that he intended to continue his new style notwithstanding all ifs and buts.

Today, some eighteen months since he first became President, Heinemann seems to have got into his stride. He has become more confident in his new position.

That is shown by the fact that he no longer reacts so aggressively when something does not suit him. Recently he even made peace with press photographers to whose ~~hectic appearance~~ he was once particularly allergic.

And, finally, he seems to have realised that there are some superficialities that are inseparably linked with the office of President.

During the course of this development the vague term "president of the people" also took gradual shape. Gustav Heinemann and his wife took it upon themselves to reconcile the great majority of the population with minority groups who had been forced to the periphery of society through no fault of their own.

If reconciliation was not possible he was at least concerned with awakening understanding for these people. The President wants to find a form of sympathy that does not alienate the mass of the population.

Some time ago he was the first German head of state to meet a group of conscientious objectors working in Bethel. This was undoubtedly meant as a gesture to remind the critical public of the basic right of conscientious objection to military service guaranteed by Basic Law.



Gustav Heinemann, the Federal Republic's informal President (Photo: dpa)

The President said to the left-wing ideologists in the group that no one could seriously expect to receive money from an institution whose existence he was fighting.

To reconcile these differences, President Heinemann also takes every opportunity that comes his way to visit the armed forces. In the short period he has been in office he has visited the troops more often than any of his predecessors.

This does not mean to say that the President always considers public opinion before doing anything. He once decided to visit a home for the mentally and physically handicapped even though he had seen the results of an opinion poll in which seventy per cent of the sample interviewed expressed the view that it was better for the public not to see these people.

It is also true for the interest that the President has recently shown for the social conditions of foreign workers in the Federal Republic.

It is also true for Hilda Heinemann's visit to the women's prison in the Frankfurt suburb of Preugesheim, whose governess is well known for her readiness for reform.

It is also true for the President's Christmas message to the nation in which he called on the population to be tolerant and requested understanding for the frequently "irksome" minority groups.

One of Heinemann's close colleagues recently described the motivation behind the President's commitment: "He does not want to be a purely representative figure but must be able to feel after his term of office is over that he has advanced the course of history. To achieve this, he does not shy from steps that another person would perhaps not dare to take for fear of the effects on his popularity."

Gustav Heinemann goes even further; "According to Basic Law, I cannot be deposed during my term of office. That of course gives me security. And what happens when the five years are up? Now, I've never made a secret of the fact that I am doing all in my power to be reelected."

Because of this attitude, but also because of the time that has now passed by, Gustav Heinemann may find it easier than his predecessors to visit neighbouring countries that suffered particularly badly under German occupation.

But his attempts to create a new basis for the coexistence of nations by giving signs of remorse is frequently better understood abroad than in the Federal Republic.

A group of people in Detmold took immediate offence for example when the President laid a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier in Oslo. The group asked whether Heinemann had not considered that thousands of German soldiers had also fallen in Norway.

The President wrote back to them that he had also wanted to honour them with his gesture. This answer restored order into the world of alarmed citizens.

Like his predecessors Theodor Heuss and Heinrich Lübke, Gustav Heinemann is always coming across the narrow limits of the rights that his office grants him.

He itches to express his frequently unpopular opinions on topical subjects such as the removal of the ban on pornography, easier divorce and the rent problem.

But Basic Law does not allow the President to – for good reasons. Therefore Heinemann has to make do with conversations with small groups of politicians, journalists, experts – or his wife who shares many of his views. But when she once told him that she had popped into a student commune when in Berlin, even Gustav Heinemann was taken aback.

Gisbert Kuhn

(Kieler Nachrichten, 9 January 1971)

Continued from page 4

on 3 March. The imperial constitution had to be redrafted and the treaties with the individual states incorporated into it. There were no changes of content.

This constitution was accepted on 14 April and signed two days later. The imperial constitution bore the date of 16 April 1871.

This was the official day on which the Empire was founded but it would have been inappropriate as a day of commemoration as the Empire had already been in existence for three and a half months. 1 January was not considered as national day as it was New Year's Day.

The number of different dates shows the difficulties involved in founding the Empire. Some of the German universities celebrated 18 January as foundation day, especially as the Prussian universities already celebrated it as Coronation Day.

Until the end of the First World War 2 September was a school holiday commemorating the victory at Sedan. Under Wilhelm II the Kaiser's birthday became the actual national day.

Under the Weimar Republic it was 11 August, the day on which the republican constitution was signed. This national day was a subject of great dispute and was not generally accepted.

Nobody at the time thought of celebrating 9 December as the day on which parliament passed the imperial constitution in 1870. It would be an appropriate day of commemoration even today.

Theodor Eschenburg

(DIE ZEIT, 1 January 1971)

The diplomatic scene in Bonn

Archbishop Corrado Bafile, the Papal Nuncio in Bonn, is the doyen of the diplomatic corps. An honour based on the length of service by envoys in their host country.

Archbishop Bafile is at the same time the diplomat who has represented the interests of his sovereign for the longest period of time in Bonn where he has been accredited for more than ten years.

Apart from the Archbishop only the Liberian envoy can look back on more than ten years of diplomatic activity in Bonn.

That is a long time in the life of a diplomat. Usually envoys have to pack their bags every few years and, if they are ambassadors, present their credentials to a new King or president.

There is a good reason for the diplomatic custom of not leaving a representative too long in one place – foreign ministries in all countries fear that close friendship and too much sympathy for the interests of the host country will rob diplomats of the critical distance they need for objective analyses and reports.

The "List of the Diplomatic Corps" that appears quarterly comprises ninety ambassadors plus the permanent chargé d'affaires of Laos and the head of the Finnish trade delegation. Because it is compelled to remain neutral Finland does not have diplomatic relations with the Federal Republic.

Some of the diplomats listed do not reside in this country. Some of the small territories are accredited in Bonn but have their embassies in London.

The largest embassy by far is that of the United States. The quarterly list contains the names of 62 persons there with diplomatic status.

To this total must be added the rest of the embassy staff from the United States or the Federal Republic, ranging from secretaries to chauffeurs. Sixteen diplomats are responsible for questions of trade and economy alone.

There is also a large military group, headed by a major general. Thirteen army and marine colonels work in the American embassy in Bonn.

There are 43 diplomats in the Russian embassy but none of them are described as officers. The French embassy has an even larger staff – 48 diplomats.

On the other hand many legations consist of only two, three or four diplomats. Iceland, Paraguay, Panama and Honduras come into this category.

It is remarkable that medium-sized countries such as Turkey have an astonishingly high number of staff in their embassies at Bonn.

More diplomats work in the Turkish embassy than in the Japanese for example because of Turkey's military cooperation with the Federal Republic within the framework of Nato.

The Afghan embassy represents the interests of the United Arab Republic and Iraq while the Australian embassy represents the interests of Cambodia.

The post of Guatemalan ambassador has not been filled since the last one left the Federal Republic after the murder of Count Spreti, the Federal Republic's ambassador in Guatemala.

The name of the former Iranian ambassador Esfandiary, ex-Queen Soraya's father, is still listed as a legation official with the title of ambassador. His German wife Eva is described as "absent".

Most embassies are in Bonn and Bad Godesberg, the Australian, Rumanian, Swiss, Iranian and South African embassies are in Cologne and the Russian embassy in Rolandseck.

Georg Gutmann

(Handelsblatt, 11 January 1971)

■ READING

Book trade must buck up its ideas to attract the public

Frankfurter **Neue Presse**

Next year Santa Claus could be parading the streets in summer with his sack full of books and games for children. If he does go on this hot, dusty march it will be as an ambassador of the book trade, commissioned by the Bookshops' Working Group and brandishing "Bookshops are there for everybody".

The Santa Claus idea is still being discussed as only one of many plans to encourage potential buyers. The book trade – meaning booksellers – is gradually beginning to wake up.

Two years ago the Bookshops' Working Group (AdB) was set up and 620 of the two to two and a half thousand booksellers are now members.

The organisation works in two directions. It courts the public and informs and appeals to the trade so that individual booksellers, the ones with least capital, become more enterprising.

The energetic strategy drawn up by the AdB in Frankfurt is based on an understanding of the economic situation. The bookshops' turnover is continually increasing but their share of the market, compared with the total sales of literary products, is nonetheless on the decrease.

This means in the long term that cooperation is necessary and urgent if the traditional book trade is not to be forced out of the literature and information business.

Other forms of distribution have long since proved successful. Apart from book clubs there are the centrally directed chains – Montanus is the best example – that carry out the functions of the booksellers, as well as the book trade in department stores, stationers and general stores and, lastly, mail order firms.

Buyers of books may well be indifferent as to whom they pay their money. May be. But it is they who have a vested interest in the book trade.

Only the bookseller with his own views, partialities and commitment to a particular author or book can build up a wide-ranging stock of literature, including academic and scientific works.

Where things are determined exclusively by economic points of view all stock other than the most popular is unemployed capital.

Forced by economic changes, the booksellers are only just beginning to think about cooperation. Twenty-one publishing concerns such as Bertelsmann, DuMont, Econ and Molden are supporting their working group that has established itself as a centre to hatch out ideas and has above all drawn up a list of proposals for joint advertising in 1971.

Every month starting in February eighteen new issues are to be highlighted in advertising and poster campaigns as the "Tip of the Month".

From the end of February to the end of May there will be another advertising slogan – "Plan your holidays with books". Shopwindow advertising and posters will be linked with a special competition.

There will also be a Cheap Book Week and the working group will provide their members with special offers of recently published books.

Shopwindow advertisements will be provided every month and the AdB periodical *Lesen*, given away free by the trade, will increase its circulation from 100,000 to 150,000 copies.

There is also the Santa Claus plan. But the publishers have misgivings, believing that the public could be angered if this symbol of Christmas is used for advertising purposes in July.

Perhaps a famous fairy tale figure or a famous children's book charakter will be sent out on to the streets instead.

The advertising campaign prepared by an agency has one firm aim – buyers who left school as soon as they could must be won over. Their fear of entering bookshops, borne out by surveys, must be overcome. This is the feeling of insecurity that overcomes the uninitiated on seeing overladen bookshelves and assistants whom they consider to be omniscient.

There is also psychological advice on this subject. Booksellers should not serve purchasers of purely amusing literature condescendingly.

Giving books as presents should be made easier by special showcase displays, advice and book tokens. A corner for cheap novels is recommended along with special exhibitions.

The tip "soft background music may be advisable in some city shops" sounds mysteriously seductive. But music does inhibit aggressive tendencies in insecure customers.

Faced with such rules from the sphere of the consumer industries, booksellers must wonder whether they are to jump on the advertising bandwagon and influence people's subconsciousness or whether they would not be better advised to aim at the critical faculties of thought in potential customers, even though it is a question of money and competition.

The Bookshops' Working Group has recognised what prospects this competitive struggle could have in the future. The existence of many bookshops depends on their being able to succeed in this branch.

Nicole Schweizer, managing director of the AdB, is optimistic. She and her executive headed by Berlin bookseller Kurt Meurer see bookshops of the future as media centres.

They therefore recommend bookshops to start stocking television cassettes and other means of audio-visual communication, a real tongue-twister of a term.

But capital and markets are needed. Department stores have these, but the bookshops do not. Anyone wanting to compete will have to merge. The possibilities of cooperation between independent bookshops is still being examined. Lawyers and business economists are still studying the results achieved by pioneers in the trade.

The possibilities of rationalisation range from cooperative buying methods, increasing the discount rate when bookshops buy books, to the suggestion of Hamburg wholesaler Curt Lingenbrink to form trade chains within which businesses remain independent. This is not the case with centralised shop chains.

The AdB intends to study all plans of this type before making recommendations to its members.

One things is already clear – rationalisation and cooperation cannot be avoided. The book trade is in the middle of a structural change and it will only be able to remain stable if it does not make the mistake it did years ago in its competition with the record trade and does not fall behind on the market for the new media.



Bestsellers

280,000 copies of Hildegard Knef's autobiography 'The Gift Horse' have been sold. And over 200,000 copies of Johannes Mario Simmel's novel 'Und Jimmy ging zum Regenbogen'. Alexander Solzhenitsyn's book 'Der erste Kreis der Hölle' published in 1968 has sold more than 210,000 copies.

(Photo: Conti-Press)

One of the duties of the book trade is be to ensure that modern, demanding unpopular literature is not rationalised out of existence as has, with few exceptions, happened in the cinema with modern films.

Rainer Hartmann

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 30 december 1970)

Enid Blyton's magic still enchants children

Children will almost certainly be enthusiastic, educationalists less so, critics critical and cinema box offices in the black when the first German-language Enid Blyton film, a joint venture by the film industry of Denmark and the Federal Republic, reaches cinemas throughout the country. The film *The Five in Trouble* has already had its premiere.

Enid Blyton, the English author of children's books, has always met with this sort of reception. Parents and teachers have always voiced their cries and have always been drowned by the noisy enthusiasm of her fans.

And things will be no different after this film based on one of the *Five Friends* series. With this film Enid Blyton is catching up on the lead set up here by her Swedish rival Astrid Lindgren with the film *Pippi Langstrumpf* that is based on one of her books.

These two authors of children's books can now also be compared on the cinema screen. Astrid Lidgren and Enid Blyton have become a frequent enough subject of discussion in homes, schools and public libraries.

There is no doubt that Astrid Lindgren always comes out of comparisons better, in the opinion of adults at least. Even her most critical critics admit that she has imagination, humour, characterising style and a way of writing for children that is not sickly.

Her stories – the fantastic experiences of the imaginative Pippi, *The Children of Bullerbü*, the *Rasmus* books and the *Kalle Blomquist* crime series – have enchanted both children and adults. They have brought her many prizes awarded for children's books both in this country and throughout the world.

Enid Blyton on the other hand was always the target of violent attacks until her death in 1968. Criticism of her books did not even die down in the flood of obituaries.

She was accused of lacking imagination and character. Her writing was termed flat and schematic and her child detective stories, especially the mystery books, have been called untrue to life, contrived and psychologically impossible.

Astrid Lindgren's books have always had their place in all public and school libraries. Many libraries did not even stock Enid Blyton's books until forced to by the unstoppable wave of enthusiasm for them.

The most violent criticism and the longest lasting success came to Enid Blyton in her own country. Ten years ago a well-known British journalist expressed his indignation at his fellow-countrymen's exaggerated admiration of Enid Blyton when he wrote that there must be something up with a country that, after children's literature like *Alice In Wonderland, Dr Doolittle* and *Winnie the Pooh*, takes to its heart an imbecilic, quarrelsome, plaintive and humourless wooden figure like Enid Blyton's Noddy.

But the same journalist had to admit sadly that his arguments did not even stop his own children from preferring Noddy and the rest of Enid Blyton's books.

Today this controversial authoress is one of the most popular children's novelists of the present time, and was certainly one of the most highly paid. She has written 400 titles which have sold millions of copies and have been translated according to the *Times* into 93 languages.

In the Federal Republic Bertelsmann alone has sold five million copies. To this figure must be added the books published by Franz Schneider of Munich and the high sales of the Erika Klopp Verlag of Berlin that was the first publishing house in this country to bring out Enid Blyton after 1945. About 110 Blyton titles can now be found in bookshops here.

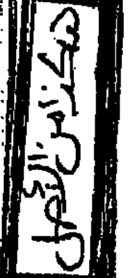
Her success was achieved because of public enthusiasm and despite all objections her work deserves to be taken seriously.

But to classify Enid Blyton as a writer of trivial and cheap literature is not a good enough explanation of this phenomenon. Enid Blyton once expressed it by saying that it was a strange but true fact that children over the world like the same stories.

Success, as Enid Blyton proves, is not necessarily a result of quality. Children all over the world also love the same comics and the same cheap television series.

What should sooner be food for thought for connoisseurs of children's literature is that not one of the 400

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■ THE ARTS

Barnes knocks the hermit saints' haloes askew in his new play

Sex, naked and unashamed, and bloody brutality seem to have become part of the props of the contemporary theatre and sporadic protests on the part of the public have served only to highlight the gradual concessions that are being and have been made to black comedy and black tragedy.

Peter Barnes, British born 39 year-old playwright who has made a name for himself in this country in the past twelve months with his plays *Die herrschende Klasse* (The ruling class), which was staged in Düsseldorf and *Leonardos letztes Abendmahl* (Leonardo's Last Supper), which was put on at Hamburg's Thalia Theater, has succeeded with macabre genius in transposing this modern trend to mediaeval saintly legend.

Wuppertal's Schauspielhaus has now presented the play in question, Barnes' *Teufel am Mittag* (Devil at Midday) for the first time in this country in a German translation.

Peter Löscher, the director, and scenic designer Adolf Steiof are responsible for the artistic side of this production and have thus opened the theatrical new year in Wuppertal with a bang.

Löscher and Steiof already had a reputation as innovators after opening a theatre laboratory on the lines of that started by the Pole Jerzy Grotowski, in the Rhineland village of Elten. Their shock effect created by this new play was obviously quite intentional.

We see the religious historian Eusebius of Caesarea in an Egyptian grotto one year before his death in 339 A.D. He is fettered and emaciated. Everything physical has been suppressed in him for the greater glory of Christ.

In the heat of noon when the glowing sun burns down mercilessly and becomes almost unbearable the Devil comes to tempt him offering sexual pleasures, money and power.

But Eusebius has been hardened by self-denial and resists Satan's temptation. Then another monk, St Pior, comes on the scene, likewise in chains, emaciated with fasting and calls for Eusebius' cavern to be given to him as a home on the orders of God.

The two holy men fight first with words, then with miracles worked by deception and finally physically. Eusebius is the winner. Pior returns on stage with a double of Eusebius and bows to the audience while the first Eusebius strikes up the same attitude of prayer with which he opened the play.

Barnes, who has an extensive knowledge of worldly and religious matters, draws on history with the story of those saints who fought the battles between the orthodox, the apostates, schismatics and heretics.

Barnes runs this episode into the practices of the bishops' conference at Ephesus in 449 A.D. which has gone down in history as the bandits' synod:

Und willst du nicht mein geistiger Bruder sein, So schlag ich dir den Schädel ein.

(If you will not be my spiritual brother I'll stave your head in!)

Thus Barnes strips the life of the saints of all its mythical mysticism, which is quite the opposite of modern literary works ranging from Gertrud von le Fort, Ruth Schaumann and Rudolf Binding to Paul Hübner's play about the life of Saint Hedwig.

This may sound shockingly anti-Christian, but arises basically from the desire to unmask some of the ideological delusions of human consciousness.

In his play Barnes calls for the hermit saints to be readmitted to society so that their contact with their religion is no longer such a private affair. These hermit saints laid great emphasis on their private meditation which brought them nearer to God, but historically speaking this is often just an alibi for their failure in society.

This ideologically critical attitude of the Barnes play is brought out well in an outstanding production in Wuppertal. A section of the stage is cleared for the actors and the rest is free for the audience.

While Eusebius is calling for the blessing of the Lord on Mankind he is looking out into the empty auditorium. The Devil and the Saint are one, played by the actor Edgar M. Böhlke who wears a microphone around his neck which is coupled to the electronic apparatus of the composer Johannes Fritsch and he declaims a dialogue/monologue.

Then the gilt-painted iron curtain drops and the stations of the imaginary temptation are presented by the strip dancer Erika Bielefeld. Sex and money are symbolised by her bare breasts. She shows power by decking herself out in Papal finery.

In the scene where Eusebius and the supposedly more pious Pior (Rudolf Brand) fight, a boxing ring is brought on stage and the make-up man adds to the alienation effect by coming on stage and smearing stage blood on the actors' faces.

Peter Löscher has become one of the first men of the theatre in this country to put into practice the theories that have been developed in Jerzy Grotowski's theatre laboratory and he has been fortunate enough to be supported in this venture with the generosity of the Wuppertal Schauspielhaus.

He has proved conclusively that the horrific events that are depicted in the laboratory can have a counteracting effect against the concrete type of violence as long as the whole thing is not debased into what passes for revolutionary fashion-making.

If recognition of this becomes general in the world of drama in the Federal Republic it will be a good thing for the theatre and not just this Wuppertal theatre alone.

Ulrich Schreiber

(Handelsblatt, 5 January 1971)

A scene from Peter Barnes play 'Devil at Midday' produced in Wuppertal

(Photo: Kurt Saurin-Sorani)

'Chronochromie' – Tetley's most poetic creation – in Hamburg

Marcel Marceau's mime drama *Candide* was in fact supposed to be the high-spot of the evening at the Hamburg Staatsoper.

But this had to be postponed and so a ballet premiere was staged in its place. This was Glen Tetley's *Chronochromie*, based on a composition of the same name by Olivier Messiaen.

Tetley, it will be remembered, is the chief artistic adviser of the Nederlands Dans Theater. He has already made a name for himself in Kiel where there have been guest performances of two of his creations *Mythical Hunters* and *Embrace Tiger and Return to Mountain*.

For six years requests were made to Messiaen to release his work as the score for a ballet, but they fell on deaf ears until now.

It could be that the composer feared for his music if it was made into the more "concrete" art form of ballet. But now he need not regret his decision to release the work for ballet after all.

The bird voice imitations of the music to *Chronochromie* are not likely to be mistaken for a musical tour of an aviary; likewise in the ballet the dancers' visions of flight and the force of gravity are also not likely to be taken for trivial simulation. *Chronochromie* is probably Tetley's most poetic creation. Movement develops from a magical tableau, from a soft spectral vision that is reminiscent of cocoons and flower panicles in spring, with misty vapours in the background and whitish-yellow light flooding the scene. The dancers in their white costumes seem to be free from the pull of gravity and light as gossamer in this setting designed by Rouben Ter Arutunian. They fly in swarms, they circle round each other playfull and one at a time they leave the group.

It appears to be wooing and unification, the beginnings of a drama are seen to evolve, there are threats, there is hurtfulness, there is loneliness.

The range of movements stretches from the heights to the depths and vice versa. Motifs of rising and falling are variegated in manifold ways.

There are small swift movements, movements that are reminiscent of the wings of a fly without being direct imitation. Glen Tetley does not quote from Nature.

The title *Chronochromie* signifies the interweaving of tonal colours and time values. The ballet involves a number of famous choreographies and a number of famous choreographers.

But the applause at the premiere was only sufficient for Tetley, his scenic designer and the premiere dancers. Great appreciation was shown for the *pas de deux*, which Maurice Béjart created, based on the five pieces for string quartet by Anton Webern.

The classical pas de deux is here only the structural framework and the basic formula. But Webern's miniatures are the foundations for a danced dialogue so gripping that it could hardly be improved upon. This is a great opportunity for the dancers to make the most of the body's expressive powers.

Just for the record I must mention the overture and finale of this Hamburg evening of ballet. These were George Balanchine's *Agon* and John Cranko's *Jeu de cartes*, choreographed versions of compositions by Igor Stravinsky.

The first, despite the imagination that had gone into it and the brilliant way it was danced was too strictly constructed.

The second was a successful joke, a game of poker with living cards, conceived in a burlesque manner and served up with wit.

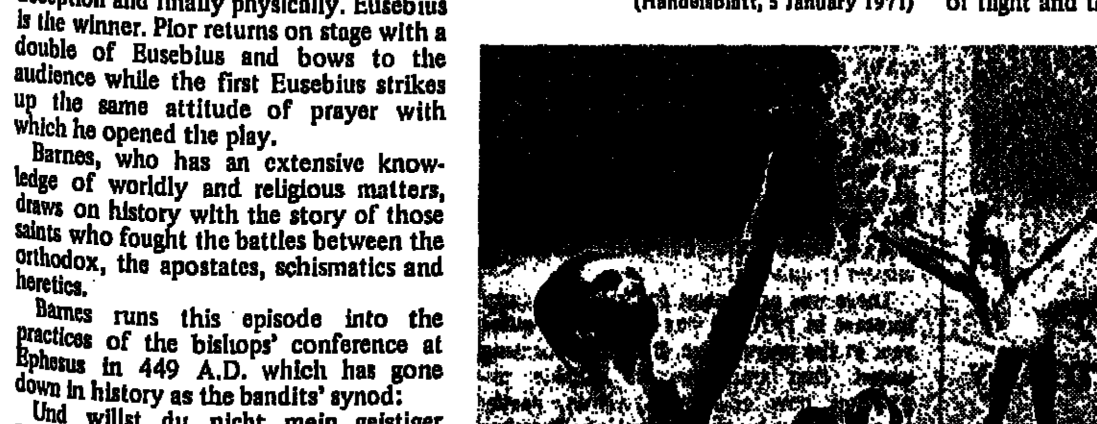
Purists grumbled, of course, at such a popular finale. There were even a few catcalls. These were certainly not directed against the Hamburg company which has a number of outstanding soloists and a virtuoso ensemble.

Perhaps they were upset at Jean-Marie Auberson's conducting, but apart from serving the music up too "thickly" he put in some sterling work.

Balanchine, Tetley, Béjart and Cranko – this time the Hamburg Staatsoper has served up a ballet evening that is worth going to see.

Rolf Gaska

(Kieler Nachrichten, 7 January 1971)



Dancers in Glen Tetley's 'Chronochromie' produced in Hamburg

(Photo: Fritz Peyer)

■ EDUCATION

1970 – UNESCO-sponsored Education Year highlighted the issues

Education Year is behind us. It was introduced by the UNESCO director general René Maheu in January 1970. All countries and peoples were to make a special effort in this field.

Minister Hans Leussink replied that the policy statement of the new government stressed that education and science stood at the top of the list of reforms that were to be carried out in the Federal Republic.

Looking at the past year in the light of such high aims and expectations, the results are modest. Comparing the result with the results of past years, there has been some progress in 1970.

It was altogether a year of education. Educational issues occupied people – in our country at least – more than ever before.

Apart from anti-authoritarian education that achieved greater importance as material for cocktail party conversations than in practice, there was a lot of discussion on two subjects – pre-school education and career training.

At present one and a half million apprentices are being trained in this country, a figure that is five times as high as the student population. But more than five times as much is probably written and spoken about student problems than those of apprentices.

Last year this forgotten majority reached public attention. Extreme critics of the system of apprentice training spoke of exploitation and demanded that training in public institutions should replace apprenticeships in small and medium-sized firms that are forced to look for cheap labour because of competition.

In the debate on pre-school education the opinion has prevailed that five-year-olds can learn through play and would learn a lot if the kindergartens gave corresponding education and had enough staff and accommodation.

Pre-school education was also recognised as a means of coming closer to the equality of educational oppotunity demanded by all political parties and ideological groups.

The differences in the intellectual and cultural climates in the parental home that has such a great influence on children's chances when starting school could be ironed out somewhat through pre-school education.

In 1970 too the teacher shortage remained the key problem. Surveys among pupils about to take their school-leaving certificate have revealed that there is an increasing readiness to enter the teaching profession, but at the same time many fall by the wayside.

When faced by a partly academic study of education and a study of their own scientifically somewhat bridled subject many young education students who wanted to become teachers lose their enthusiasm for the profession.

The Education Ministers Conference failed in its attempt to standardise teacher training, making it more practical, and caused the most serious crisis in its years of existence.

It was proposed that teachers should no longer be paid (and respected) according to the type of school they teach at. Instead they should be differentiated as grade teachers depending on the age range they teach.

To help alleviate the acute teacher shortage, the Education Minister of the Federal states ruled by the Social Democrats wanted to allow one-subject teachers who were to study only one subject for a shorter period of time and be of equal standing with teachers who had trained for a longer period and in more than one subject in the usual style of course.

The Education Ministers of Federal states governed by Christian Democrats and Christian Socialists were supported by the high school teachers associations when they opposed this emergency solution with the argument that pupils, especially those in the highest grades, needed teachers with wider horizons.

What is more, they argued, a teacher of one subject would not be able to help out in another.

The Education Ministers Conference split into two factions over this issue, all depending on what party the ministers belonged to. The unifying link of federalist interest no longer held.

Faced with new competition from the educational planning commission representing both central government and Federal states, the Education Ministers Conference has never been so disunited and is also occupied with the question of whether it has become superfluous.

The Education Ministers are also represented on the educational planning commission that met four times in 1970 but there is also an equal number of central government representatives.

On the new board decisions are made on the majority principle. In the *Education Ministers Conference* unanimity is required for decisions or even recommendations. The results was clumsiness and, on many issues, complete indecisiveness.

During the course of 1970 the central government's framework University Law developed from Minister Hans Leussink's fourteen points to a stage where it is now ready to be submitted to the Bundestag, following extensive discussions and several drafts.

Various groups at university – professors, lecturers and students – have made a number of criticisms of the various drafts but, although split (at association level at any rate), they did agree that the influence of the State on the universities should be kept as low as possible.

Only the Freedom of Science League set up last autumn issued statements (not always free from contradiction) which gave rise to the impression that it was calling on the State to infringe drastically upon the independence of the universities so that a revolution of the whole order of the State would not follow on from the "falsely understood" democratisation and reform at university.

There was no reason for such a gloomy forecast in 1970. It was a relatively quiet year at the universities. But the reforming unrest that once sought outside expression now continued within, partly along lines set by the institution. That has brought more work than ever for all concerned. Again it is only the activists, the extremist groups who have devoted themselves to it – the majority of students continued to be silent.

Admission restrictions – the numerus clausus – has been extended to other subjects but the public has grown tired of the subject.

All in all, the year brought some important changes in the public climate and in the substructure of education policy, a better basis for the fresh struggle against old troubles, though no more.

Christian Schütze

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 January 1971)

Academics create a demand for academics

Kieler Nachrichten

The question of the need for academics and the possible over-production of them forms the background to an investigation of the professional position of political scientists who have completed their courses since the discipline was first set up in Berlin after the War.

This study reverses the usual way of dealing with the question of demand. Instead of starting from a demand for academics that has to be fulfilled, it starts from a supply of academics that had first to create a demand and in fact created one, as the results now published by the Ernst Klett publishing concern in Stuttgart show.

D. Hartung, R. Nuthmann and W. Winterhager investigated the subject "political scientists in professional life" within the framework of a wider research project at the Max Planck Institute for Educational Research in Berlin.

When political science courses were started at the College of Political Sciences, now the Otto Suhr Institute of the Free University of Berlin, there was not yet any demand for graduates of the discipline.

What potential employer could know what sort of training a course in political science actually gave and for what sort of work graduates would be suitable?

At the university on the other hand politics had become a science and a course of study without any attention being paid to the fact whether or not people with this sort of training were sought after or needed in the professional world.

But the majority of the 500 persons interviewed have found a profession. Conditions usually correspond to those of graduates of the classical arts and sociological subjects, from a material point of view at any rate.

In 1969 their average income was around 2,000 Marks a month after an average seven years at work. There was however considerable divergence in this figure, both upwards and downwards.

Prospects depend greatly on individual mobility. The normal mechanism of the labour market plays a far smaller role than informal contacts via colleagues, professors and special work done during study. Membership of an association or party is frequently of importance.

The fields of activity employing most political scientists are the public service (over a fifth), universities (just a fifth), adult education and the mass media, each with one eighth. Ten per cent of political scientists in employment were in industry.

Although training and profession were in no way adjusted to each other more than half the political scientists find that can use what they learnt during their study in their profession too.

Only a fifth of the graduates of this discipline do jobs that bear no relation to their training.

What seems to be more important is that a third have found or themselves created positions that can today be considered as posts for political scientists. When a post of this type falls vacant another political scientists will be sought.

They represent the specific need created in the professional world by new training as soon as it was in existence.

There is interesting information on what prevents political scientists from

Continued on page 9

■ SCIENCE WORLD

Food expert explodes dietetic myths

BEING TOO CHOOSY IS A BAD THING, EXPERT WARNS

Frankfurter Rundschau

Professor Hans Glatzel, director of the Max Planck Institute for Nutritional Physiology in Dortmund for many years now, has set out to clear the cobwebs from old nutritional recommendations and explode old wives' tales that are served up time and time again. His latest finding is that ice-cold drinks are not at all harmful.

In the medical journal *Therapie der Gegenwart* Professor Glatzel takes to task the present temperature regulations for food and drinks, the very information that medical students here have to learn as the essence of healthy nutrition.

It is stated that soups and stews should not be eaten any hotter than 37 to 45 degrees centrigrade, that milk should not be above 33 to 40 degrees and that a roast joint should not be above forty degrees.

The text books even have a binding rule for bread – it should not be over thirty degrees when served.

Professor Glatzel is to be applauded when he asks why fresh toast should not be eaten at the same temperature as steak.

The allegedly healthy temperatures for drinks could ruin a person's thirst. Water should be twelve or thirteen degrees, coffee and tea should not exceed forty to 43 degrees and even the recommended figure for beer is between twelve and fifteen degrees.

Nutritional expert Professor Glatzel retorts, "No publican would dare serve hs guests such a stale, flat drink."

Professor Glatzel believes that all medical fears about the harmfulness of hot and cold food and drink are unfounded.

There was no scientific proof of the fact that the tiny thermo-receptors in the human mucous membranes suffered from heat or cold, nor was it true that cold drinks caused ulcers. On the contrary, cold milk is often used in medical treatment to alleviate bleeding ulcers.

Food and drink are not digested at the same temperature as they are eaten or drunk. A 63 degree stew cools down to 41 degrees on its way to the stomach. After fifteen minutes it has already reached body temperature.

Cold drinks warm up by more than twenty degrees when passing through the mouth, throat and oesophagus. Professor Glatzel maintains that cold drinks are refreshing and invigorating.

The best temperature for white wine, beer and cola is under ten degrees. Consumed in this way, they never cause complaints of the mouth, oesophagus, stomach or intestine.

This is not the first time that Professor Glatzel has campaigned against centuries-old dietary recommendations. The Professor attacks kitchen superstitions at a rate of one a month. He has so far shot down:

* the recommendation only to eat light fare in the evening. "People sleep well after lunch", Professor Glatzel says. "Why should the same meal encourage sleep at midday and inhibit it at night?"

* the belief that old people should guard against spices. Professor Glatzel says that old people lose all desire to eat if they stick to broths and food with a low seasoning content. They do not need large quantities but what they do eat should at least taste good.

* the old warning given to children not to drink too much water in case they swell up. Professor Glatzel disproves this by stating that children have a greater need of water than adults. If they want to drink more there is no reason to forbid it.

* the widespread belief (particularly among doctors) that black bread is more healthy than white bread. Glatzel says that black bread takes no more masticating than white bread. It also leaves more remains in the mouth than fresh white bread. This is of decisive influence on caries.

But Professor Glatzel shies away from attacking one old warning. In a study of the right nutrition for young people he stresses that sweets before meals should be strictly forbidden.

Otherwise all healthy people should eat what they like – as long as they take care that they do not become too fat. But people should not be too choosy either, says Professor Glatzel. His motto reads: "The aim of sensible upbringing is to make children eat what is on their plate without any fuss."

Ladislaus Kuthy

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 January 1971)

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using what they have learnt in their profession:

*Only about a third of those replying to the question saw the obstacle as natural and conditioned by the type of work itself.

*On the other hand two thirds meet with opposition of an all too understandable type – superiors or colleagues, established routine, antiquated regulations prevented these political scientists from making full use of their newly-gained knowledge and ability in their profession.

The study does not only explain the problems of a new academic discipline in the professional world. It also gives important information on the problem of the effectiveness of innovation, the conditions under which new scientific knowledge and the new qualifications based on this can be made profitable for social development via a profession.

Gottfried Pfeffer

(Kieler Nachrichten, 6 January 1971)

Transplant centre in West Berlin

A transplant centre is currently being set up in West Berlin by a surgical team consisting of scientists from the Free University who will first of all concentrate on kidney transplants, the only type of organ transplant that has passed beyond the experimental stage and that can be considered a proper course of treatment.

The team including doctors with such an international reputation as Professors Bücherl and Nasserin, has been attached to the West End Clinic where they hope to use their experiences in kidney transplants to prepare plans for transplanting livers, hearts, lungs and bone marrow.

Surgeons, nephrologists, immunologists, physiologists and urologists are involved in the Berlin Transplant working group.

The Free University Board has so far granted the team about 73,000 Marks. The scientists have asked for funds of almost half a million Marks to extend Berlin Transplant in the next two years. A large part of this money will be needed for equipment to conserve organs and organ storage units.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 4 January 1971)

Spectromats provide high-speed blood analyses

Scientists of the Biological Physical Research Society in Oberjensingen near Herrenberg have developed a new automatic method for tracing elements in the blood.

With the help of equipment that condenses blood samples over a filament of 24,000 volts in a matter of seconds and then examines it with a spectroscope even the smallest quantities of 22 different chemical elements can be traced. Their exact quantity can then be calculated by computer.

A disposable syringe is used to take ten cubic centimetres of blood from the patient first thing in a morning. The sample is then sent to the Institute in a test tube that prevents coagulation of the blood.

It is necessary to use a disposable syringe as even the smallest traces of calcium or other elements from the steam used for sterilisation purposes would immediately affect the result of the analysis.

During the condensation of the blood sample in the apparatus called a spectromat, the characteristic spectral lines occurring in the spectrum of light give information about the existence of the individual elements in the blood, as in usual spectroscopic methods.

Their quantity can be worked out from the intensity of light of the various lines. This happens electronically in spectromats with the help of an extremely sensitive photo-element called a multiplier.

The mean values for the individual elements are calculated three times in this way before being automatically arranged into tabular form by a computer and compared with the normal values calculated by examining a representative sample of healthy people. The computer automatically points out any divergence from the norm.

Two days after dispatching the blood sample the doctor receives this table giving him exact information on the existence of individual elements in the blood of his patient.

Similar equipment had only been used previously in industry and large chemical installations such as refineries. This is its first use in the field of medicine.

After the five thousand examinations made up to now scientists are therefore not completely sure in many cases what combinations of what quantities of elements could be characteristic for certain diseases.

Doctors were surprised by the high chromium and lead content in many of the blood samples. To all appearances the lead had partly replaced the iron that is otherwise in the blood. Scientists obviously do not yet know the extent to which this high lead content is due to anti-pinking fuels.

They believe that various disturbances of the memory and the ability to concentrate may be due to the increase in lead content, especially in cases where the blood also contains high quantities of magnesium.

Researchers believe that impotence, migraine and many other complaints could be linked with unusual distribution patterns of the elements in the blood. But extensive work will have to be done in this field before really valid conclusions can be made.

Christoph Wolff

(DIE WELT, 5 January 1971)

Enid Blyton charms

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books that Enid Blyton has written contradicts what she herself once claimed about them: "I am proud of never having given children a single nightmare."

Astrid Lindgren's reply to the question of what she thought about Enid Blyton is also of significance: "She was a particularly charming lady. She must have had a good and harmonious family life."

It can now be forecast that the new film based on books by this particularly charming and particularly controversial novelist will increase still further the demand for all books.

And the parents who themselves have bought these books as presents will react to the pleasure shown by their children as parents throughout the world react to the writer – with helplessness, a certain amount of unease and with many justified arguments which they will not voice as there is no argument effective enough against Enid Blyton.

H. Darnstädt

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 30 December 1970)





■ THE ECONOMY

1971 will mark an important turning point in economic developments

Our economy plunged into 1970 travelling at far too great a speed. The brakes had to be applied hard, but it was only towards the end of the year that the braking effect began to be felt.

What about the new year? This is the old question that is always asked when we embark on a new year, but this time it is vitally important to find an answer since at an economic turning point such as this uncertainty is always at its height.

The main question that must be answered is whether we will succeed in getting our economy back on stable lines without causing too much upset along the way. Or will we leave 1971 behind in the midst of a depression such as in 1966/67?

Can we look forward to an end to the prices spiral and depreciation of the Mark or have we allowed ourselves to slip into that resignation in the face of inflation that has been shown in many other countries?

Needless to say many pundits and soothsayers have had a crack at forecasting economic developments throughout this year.

The most notable of these are the committee of economic experts, the economic research institutes and the government itself in the guise of its medium-term finance plans.

All reckon with an easing off of the pressure on the economy that resulted from the 1969 boom, particularly in the second half of this year. But it is not generally expected that we will lapse into a grave recession.

Without doubt the cut-back in investments that has already begun will continue throughout the year with falling demand, high interest rates and samaller margins of profit for reinvestment.

The beginning of this new year and the next few months will bring into force measures that will help to offset this trend. There was a further lowering of investment tax, which was introduced along with value added tax on 1 January.

From 1 February degressive depreciation will be back so that industry can claim tax relief on capital investments and the ten per cent tax surcharge introduced last year finishes on 30 June 1971.

At any rate the professional economics forecasters predict an actual increase in gross national product for 1971 of about four per cent.

This does mean that the growth rate of our economy will have slowed down compared with the five per cent increase in the year just ended and the eight per cent of 1969. But the likes of eight per cent increases are exceptional and in this case it was the result of exceptionally high productivity.

An actual growth rate of four per cent would still be a pleasing figure and the British, for example, would be overjoyed if they could claim the same.

A disturbing factor is that with the smaller growths in GNP since 1969 a protracted general increase in prices has gone hand in hand.

Whereas the increase in the cost of living in November 1969 for the previous year was 2.7 per cent, the comparable figure for November 1970 was 4.1 per cent. These two trends taken together show just how false the widespread assumption is that one only has to create a little inflation and the economy is bound to flourish.

In truth there is only a protracted and healthy economic growth when there is a basis of a stable currency to bolster it.

Unfortunately the prospects of stability for the Mark in the next year look bleak. The committee of experts expects the cost of living to rise by about 3.5 per cent. It is not expected that there will be any slackening off of price increases in the first six months of this year. There some hefty wage and salary increases towards the end of last year and these will now be making their effect felt. Demand is likely to increase, too, as a result.

Trade unions should bear this in mind in the next few months and should exercise moderation when putting in further claims. The Economic Affairs Ministry expects the increase in real earnings this year to be in the region of seven or eight per cent.

This should be the upper limit in view of the fact that the economy is quietening down. The committee of experts, however, forecasts that the increase in real earnings in 1971 will be more like twelve per cent.

If the unions abuse their strength and try to push through wage and salary increases of this magnitude without regard to the circumstances they will tragically have all the proof they need that their much vaunted (by themselves) sense of responsibility for the overall economic situation is a thing of the past.

If they do, it will mean that they have refused to make any effort to bring about the stabilisation of the Mark that everyone in this country, including the workers they represent, wants.

Every extravagant wage claim will be yet another nail in the coffin of the Mark.

The same accusation, be it added, must be levelled at any company that takes such inflationary salary grabs meekly in the hope that it can offset them by bumping up its prices and getting away with it.

It is quite clear that the value of money is falling because of increased production costs and not because of excessive consumer demand.

This kind of creeping inflation is far more pernicious than the other. Excessive demand can easily be quelled by economic measures, but counteracting overhigh wages and salaries can only be achieved by further price increases or by mass sackings.

Both of these undesirables will be inevitable, however, if the trades unions continue their wages policies that are anathema to stability and which they have been pursuing for at least one year.

Furthermore we must now bear in mind that contrary to all expectations we cannot now count on exports as a saving grace to the same extent as in 1966.

The reason for this is that our competitiveness on international markets has been seriously undermined by increased costs and prices.

At any rate when previewing the economic situation in 1971 apart from all the other imponderables trends in other countries are the great unknown. This is yet another reason why great caution must be exercised in this country.

Another aspect of the economic scene which is difficult if not impossible to predict is the psychological climate and the way in which it will develop.

The Social Democrat/Free Democrat government is guilty of paying little or no attention to psychological factors and their long-term effects on the economy, namely how people will react to the economic measures that have been implemented.

In fact the government with its reforming zeal, its verbosity and its constant reflections on what new burdens can be heaped on the economy, not to mention its constant jockeying in economic and finance policies, has created a climate of uncertainty.

Uncertainty always has been fertile for unexpected psychological reactions.

For this reason it is essential that at this turning point the government should come out strongly in favour of return to a stable situation.

The government must stick by its promise not to release the economic brakes too soon even if it is pressured by vested interest groups.

Hans Roeper

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 January 1971)

Who's who of the top 500 firms

Something that America has already had for a long time is to be introduced to the five hundred largest companies in the country.

The compilers, Wilhelm Grotkopp and Ernst Schmacke, feel that they are bridging a gap in general information by making the names of the top firms readily available in the form of their book *Die großen 500* (The top 500).

The book also lists the management of these companies. Droste Verlag, the publishers, have made the book available for foreigners with English, French and Spanish translations.

Die großen 500 comprises not only all the important figures such as turnover, export quotes and dividends, but also all the necessary information about individual companies within groups, their address, production programmes, subsidiaries, and names of members of the supervisory board and members of the committee.

This handbook will be published annually in a condensed form, bringing information such as turnover figures up to date and will "bridge the information gap between our economy and that of other countries."

The 1970 edition comprises 484 pages and, bound in plastic, costs 48 Marks.

(Rheinische Post, 4 December 1970)

Competition from Tokyo in Russian markets hurts

When managers of large Japanese industrial and commercial companies climbed on board a jet to Moscow last February they were determined to give a boost to their trading with the Soviet Union.

The occasion was favourable. It was the fourth Soviet-Japanese economic conference, being held in the Soviet capital.

Items on the agenda included building projects to expand harbours in the far east of Russia, supply of Russian natural gas and special types of wood to Japan and of course money matters, credit and finance.

Shortly afterwards the Soviet news agency Tass reported that deals worth about 700 million dollars were forecast for 1970. This must have been a disappointment for the optimists since the trade agreement of March 1969 had mentioned a figure over the 700 million dollar level.

Once again it seemed that although Russia and Japan like to talk about increased trading and closer ties the actual contracts slip up somewhere between cup and lip.

This time, however, the Japanese did not accept defeat. They called for new rounds of talks, made offers and recommendations and obviously interested the Russians, for in December the bombshell from Moscow burst in editors' offices in this country that Federal Republic firms had lost contracts to the Japanese.

The most spectacular example was the contract for an ethylene producing plant with an annual capacity of 450,000 tons. This deal was worth 185 million Marks.

However, the matter was still far from being signed, sealed and delivered for the Soviet Union.

In the Kremlin there are many coolheaded, calculating people. Lately they have been looking towards this country and trends in prices here.

There was great disappointment on both sides at the International Machine-Tools Fair in September.

Soviet technicians and buyers were of the opinion that Federal Republic industry could supply materials and parts for the Kama lorry-works project and other ventures planned for the next few years.

This was backed up by experience on the vehicle manufacturing plant at Togliattigrad on the Volga.

But it was this very car factory that put the wind up several firms in the Federal Republic. Firms in this country had agreed to make deliveries to Togliattigrad worth 450 million Marks.

The prices they set then were affected by a recession and were at a steady low. No one imagined that two or three years later costs would run wild and overtake the prices then agreed upon.

The fact is that many of the firms involved have been brought to the brink of disaster by this deal.

Today the bosses of firms in this country are trying to show themselves smarter. They have tried to get contracts with adjustable price levels, but the Russians have refused point blank to have anything to do with this.

And so the result is that there are fixed surcharges on prices. This in turn has led to offers being made that have convinced the Russians that this country is not all that interested in trading with them anyway.

But of course the Japanese are experiencing galloping price rises as well. However, industrial Japan with its harmonious economic and company policies has other opportunities of conquering markets that appear important.

The Ministry for International Trade and Industry in Tokyo makes no bones about this fact. This is quite understandable when it is considered that Japan can only provide about one fifth of its own fuel and power requirements.

There is another good reason for Japan's industry to try to get on good terms with the Russians. The Japanese cannot any longer find extensive outlets for the capital investment goods they produce in Europe and the emerging countries are not ready yet to buy sufficient heavy industrial items from Japan to keep the economy ticking over.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is now just ready for these items.

Our industry is, however, viewing the situation with nonchalance. We know that the atmosphere cannot yet have been completely cleared by the treaties signed with Socialist countries and the Moscow Treaty's effect on Bonn-Moscow relations is not yet being felt to the full.

Nevertheless the criterion the Russians use in trading is the price and supply potential of their products. Their hand is also forced by the fact that credit facilities cannot be extended indefinitely. Experts reckon that Moscow has already had one thousand million dollars on loan from the West.

(DIE ZEIT, 1 January 1971)

■ BUILDING TRADE

Cardboard and tubular houses on show in Essen

Building, generally speaking, is not much more advanced nowadays than it was in the days of the pharaohs. We still plonk one stone on top of another!

However, numerous efforts have been made to break away from this age-old method of building. Correspondents of *Handelsblatt* have been surveying the building scene and here are the discoveries they have made about how your home of the future may look:

The *disposable* house is here! It is made of lightweight, cardboard based materials and is designed so that you live in it for just 35 years then throw it away!

The owners move out and the dustmen move in and cart it away. At the fifth Federal Republic building exhibition to be held in Essen from 6 to 14 February the young Swiss architect Erwin Mühlestein will put this short-lived architecture on show for the first time in the Federal Republic.

Throw-away houses will, according to Herr Mühlestein, give people a whole new outlook on living: "They are not meant as investments. They are more like clothes. When their useful life is over they are destined for the dustbin.""

There are already fishermen's huts in Polar regions made of cardboard materials and cardboard emergency hospitals have been used by the American forces in Vietnam.

In fact the United States army, aided by the Japanese art of paper folding has even managed to make a bridge of cardboard spanning six metres (nearly twenty feet). Vehicles up to five tons in weight were able to cross this bridge.

Further opportunities for reducing construction costs and the backbreaking effort of building houses are offered by other new processes such as tubular steel and hardened foam materials. Bayer Leverkusen has already succeeded in building an igloo of foam. This process involves covering a balloon with a diameter of six metres and a height of 3.5 metres with hardened foam. After three and a half hours the air is let out of the balloon and hey presto, the igloo-house is ready!

Erwin Mühlestein won the *Grand prix international d'urbanisme et d'architecture* in 1969 with a mobile, throw-away town-planning scheme at the sixth Biennale in Paris.

Since then he has designed six-storey buildings of plastic-moulding materials made from triangular cells. The building trade has, however, not yet realised the full potential of disposable houses.

But the more conventional branches of the building trade have announced that they will be showing in Essen decisive changes for the next few years. By taking advantage of all the available opportunities for rationalisation it is possible to make economies of up to thirty per cent, according to the director of the institute for building research in Hanover, Professor Triebel.

Mass-production or industrial pre-fabrication already makes it possible to produce one square metre of living space in seventeen or even seven hours whereas a detached house requires 34 hours per square metre.

Essen will also see the final stages of another interesting building project, the Elta all-plastic house which will be produced by a Berlin plastics factory on mass-production lines by mid-1971.

Constructing the new housing design will take little longer than one shift. No crane will be needed. All the workers will have to do is lift the light-weight building elements into their right position which has been carefully marked by a plan of instructions. It is as simple as building a plastic model.

Each unit will cost about 20,000 Marks. The lightness of the materials used means that an Elta house can be erected almost anywhere and so it is ideal as a holiday home or a weekend retreat. But this building system can also be used for ordinary estates. The individual units can be coupled together. A house with 140 square metres of living space, for example, can be pre-fabricated in four weeks and erected in two days by six people. The price per square metre is approximately 750 Marks. Conventional buildings, however, cost on average well over 1,000 Marks per square metre.

On to Castrop-Rauxel. There we find the 200,000 square metre Uropark V 2000. At the entrance to the park there is a tubular house standing on four stilts. This is a testbed for people who think they might like to buy such a thing as a weekend retreat or a second string house. They can live there on trial.

The tubular house is 15 metres long (approximately 50 feet). Whereas most houses stand this one tends to lie, and does give the impression that they've landed!

In reality this is the world's first tubular house of plastic which caused a sensation when first given a public airing at last year's Hanover Fair. Interested housing experts from America wanted to set it up on New York's Fifth Avenue but it found its home instead in Castrop-Rauxel.

Two men were instrumental in putting the tubular plastic house in Castrop-Rauxel. Firstly the architect, Franz-Heinrich Dutler, 45, from Saukt Gallen, Switzerland, who developed this prototype and was keen to keep it in Europa.

The second was Egbert Bolmerg, a young building contractor from Dorsten in Westphalia, who is at present working on a development scheme to make the Europark into a large leisure time area.

Herr Bolmerg who is used to working with stone, cement and wood, is turning his attention to plastics. Sharply rising prices in the building trade where conventional materials are still used, have disturbed him, his brother Heinrich and his father who run a building firm employing 300.

An Elta house — ideal for a weekend holiday home

(Photo: Archiv Handelsblatt)

He sees plastics as the building material of the future and is concerned with attracting building contractors not with a glossy catalogue but by allowing them to test his houses by living in them.

Those who have tried out the tubular plastic house experienced a completely new sensation when they have climbed the 22 steps and entered through the aluminium sliding door.

There is an ante-room with a wardrobe and wall cupboards and a bedroom with a full-size double bed.

The door from the bedroom opens on to a spacious bathroom and a shower room containing two showers.

Beyond that is a dream kitchen for which any woman would give her right arm with a micro-wave grill, deep-freeze and washing-up machine. Opposite that *are the living quarters with a study* section containing a desk, bookcases and a home bar.

The house cannot be damaged by sun, subzero temperatures or salty seawater. The "walls" are made of glass-fibre reinforced Palatal, a new material developed by BASF. These walls have the same protective value against heat and cold as conventional walls several feet thick. The house has a cellar under one section.

The whole building is made from one conponent part and weighs 8,600 kilograms, approximately 19,000 pounds. The whole thing takes just one hour to set up.

(Handelsblatt, 8 January 1971)

More consumer protection planned

Regular subscribers to the consumer magazine *Test* are likely to become members of a new consumers' association in the foreseeable future.

The Economic Affairs Ministry is considering making subscribers to the magazine eligible for membership of the consumer federation in order to create a powerful and active consumer organisation.

Test, a monthly publication is produced by the Berlin-based *Stiftung Warentest* organisation that was set up by the government five years ago to control the quality of consumer products.

Of the 140,000 readers of the magazine 70,000 are regular subscribers and the circulation last year went up on average by 2,000 each month.

The "Test-Plan" is among the measures which the Economic Affairs Ministry intends to introduce to protect the consumer against the might of large corporations.

The short-term aim of the Ministry before the foundation of the "Test Federation" is to strengthen the Working Committee of Consumer Associations (AGV), based in Bonn, which was set up as long ago as 1953.

This organisation comprises eighteen associations representing many varied interest groups and for this reason it has not been able to find a basis for productive cooperation, as Ministerial Counsellor Herr Schulze-Niestroy stresses.

Member associations include for example The Confederation of Federal Republic Housewives, The Confederation of Federal Republic Rentpayers and the Catholic Workers Movement.

Herr Schulze-Niestroy plans to bring the various associations closer together so that they can work on a more cooperative and more effective basis.

In addition a consumer Ombudsman may be appointed who would work independently of existing organisations and would have the task of representing consumer interests in the face of the government, industry and the general public.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 January 1971)

Building trade views 1971 with trepidations

This year is likely to be another troubled twelve months for the building trade, according to the latest newsletter published by the industry's central association.

The newsletter says that last year the industry had the worst of both worlds with no boom of its own, but detrimental side effects from the overheated conditions in other industrial sectors of the economy.

There was continued fierce competition which meant that soaring costs could only to a limited extent be passed off in higher prices. In addition to this many of this country's best qualified workers in the trade went over to branches of industry that were in a better state of health and the building trade lost some of its most reliable hands.

Already the industry is faced with further cost increases following price rises in public service organisations, which give the building trade approximately sixty per cent of its commissions.

According to the central association of the building trade before contracts can be completed supplementary charges have already been swallowed up by price rises. This means that output in the building trade is not likely to increase greatly this year.

Harsh criticism is levelled at the Bundesbank for not considering releasing the economic brakes a little. The building trade spokesmen consider that the Bundesbank should start doing some long-term planning now. This applies particularly to credit policies and interest rates which always need time to take effect.

Great uncertainty overshadows the road-building sector of the industry this year. The road-building programme has fallen so far behind what has been planned and what is required that thousands of millions of Marks are required to make up the lost ground.

To keep up with the increased numbers of cars that are being put on the roads over 400 thousand million Marks would be needed at today's prices. The price index for road-building which was always under 100 from 1962 to 1969 will touch 120 this year.

This increase cannot in the long run be covered by increased productivity. The building trade is, moreover, forced to complete long-standing contracts at fixed prices in the face of vastly increased costs.

Apart from wages material costs have also risen, the central association complains.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 January 1971)

■ TRANSPORT

Emil Schuh's design team gives the railways a new look

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG
Industriekurier

Force out the grey is a slogan that is no longer limited to detergent admen. It is the task facing a body set up by Deutsche Bundesbahn, the German Federal Railways, about a year ago, the design centre in Munich.

Many fixed ideas as to how compartments must be designed, upholstery shaped, stations fitted out and name plates fixed date back to a grey twilight in the distant past, as it were.

"This," says chief designer Emil Schuh, 64, a senior director at the Bundesbahn's Munich offices, "is why we are taking a look at everything – from tickets to gas turbine locomotives."

From the passenger's point of view the most obvious changes the design centre will soon have brought about will be in carriage decor.

The dark green of most carriages, dating from the nineteenth century, is to give way to brighter, more cheerful colours that are more in line with the tastes of the younger generation.

Three new look long-distance trains already travel to and fro on regular services. The basic carriage colour is silver-grey superimposed with other colours for the window frames, flashes and writing.

Orange is the distinctive colour of first-class carriages, blue that of second-class, *red for buffet and sleeper cars, lilac* for couchettes and green for luggage cars.

In a few years' time completely new carriages will add a new look to Bundesbahn rolling stock. They will retain the new colours but the silver-grey base will be replaced by the silver gleam of rustproof steel.

In order to make the superstructure as light in weight as possible the sides of the carriages will not be straight up and down; there will be folds in them, as it were. As for the rustproof steel, it promises to need no maintenance at all, so saving both labour, materials and wear and tear.

The new carriages are to be unveiled next year. The Bundesbahn board has only recently decided between two full-size prototypes modelled by the design centre and so given the go-ahead for the interior decor.

The most important change is that second-class carriages are now also to be air-conditioned. Carriages will be six inches wider and the upholstery is to be fabric rather than leather.

As is already Bundesbahn practice, unlike that of railway authorities in a good many other countries, the new second-class carriages are to have only three seats per width of compartment.

The gaily-patterned fabric-covered seats will be reclinable and the upholstered armrests will continue to be folded up and back into the body of the seat when not needed.

The walls will be in beige plastic and other changes that reveal the designers' work are new luggage racks, new reading-lamps over every seat and windows 1.20 metres (four feet) wide.

Only corridor windows will be openable. On the compartment side they will be in one piece since ventilation and heating will be handled by the air conditioning.

First-class travel, particularly in the Bundesbahn's Rheingold class Trans-Europe-Express carriages, is already a hallmark of comfort but the design centre is working on further improvements.

The seats are to be better designed and sprung, headrests to be softer and adjustable, lighting to be improved. Toilets are to be better designed and boarding and disembarking facilitated by an additional folding step below the doors (the floor level of Continental carriages is well above *that of platforms*).

Another pet project of the Bundesbahn design team is the two new party carriages that will mainly form part of special trains and be hired to travel agents. They are to include one large room that can be subdivided, a bar, a kitchen, a room for couriers and Trans-Europ-Express standard toilets.

There are also plans for a conference room that can be used as a projection room for slides and films.

The designers attach particular importance to the appearance of new locomotives and railcars. Although carriages and compartments are of far more immediate importance for the passenger there is greater general interest in the locomotives, which are at times viewed as the hallmark of the respective railway authority.

Chief designer Emil Schuh, who is both an engineer and an architect, has been an adviser on locomotive design to the Bundesbahn board since 1955.

In many cases the Trans-Europe-Express diesel railcar is still hailed as a superb design even though it has been superseded as the star of the Bundesbahn *sheds by the 125-mile-an-hour 103 class* electric locomotive, a long run of which is now under construction.

The 216 range of diesel locomotives, including the 215, 217, 218, 219 and 220 versions, is another class that has proved most satisfactory in design.

Experienced architect Schuh makes no bones about locomotive design presenting designers with many a tough nut to crack. There is nothing that can be done about the basic problem, which is that dimensions are predetermined by gauge and permanent way.

As a result there can be no alternations whatsoever to width and height and very little variation in length. So apart from the colour the main design feature can only be the front end, the face of the locomotive.

Here too there are any number of factors that must be taken into account. Design must be streamlined to reduce wind resistance. The driver's vision must be unhindered and the design must not clash with that of the rolling stock.

The ET 403 electric railcar, scheduled to be brought into service in summer 1972, will travel at 125 miles an hour on inter-city services. It differs in design from anything previously seen.

Its front end bears an unmistakeable resemblance to a fish and is undoubtedly streamlined. It is already as good as certain that the VT 603 gas turbine railcar will have roughly the same look.

The only additional design problem presented by the gas turbine railcar is that the carriages will be in between the two locomotive units, each equipped with two 2,500-horse-power gas turbines.

The roof of the power units must accordingly be rounded so as to make them match the carriages.

Director Schuh sees what he chooses to call environment as another focal point of design work. By this he means everything that serves to inform, handle and guide travellers.

The Bundesbahn design centre intends to keep an attentive and critical eye on everything connected with signposting, illumination, information, communication, inter-relation of the various service facilities and station design, including elevators, escalators and travellators.

This, of course, will be in addition to the basic design of new traveller facilities, the emphasis being on usefulness to rail-users.

Environment will thus be one of the most important items on the agenda of the international RIDE 71 conference, a congress to be held in Nuremberg this May that will be attended by design staff of nearly all European railway authorities.

They will be paying particular attention the information and processing of travellers according to uniform European standards, also to tricky items such as the handling of cripples and the construction of ramps as an alternative to steps so as to make it easier to move prams, luggage porters and the like from one level to another.

Last but not least they will be dealing with demands, frequently made, for advertising to be subordinated to information so that travellers can find their way around more easily.

Emil Schuh's design team at the department includes three engineering graduates specialising in architecture, two engineering graduates specialising in mechanical engineering, three industrial designers, two commercial artists and a model-builder.

They can also call on the services of a psychologist, not to say a total staff of 400,000, for the entire Bundesbahn and its facilities are at their disposal.

This fact is no less important than the direct link Emil Schuh has with the Bundesbahn board in Frankfurt.

Ralf Roman Rossberg
(Handelsblatt, 30 December 1970)



Old and new – trains as they were at the beginning of the century and the smart ... of the seventies
(Photo: Ralf Roman Rossberg)

Inter-city expresses to start this autumn

Inter-city services are to be inaugurated by the Bundesbahn this autumn. They will, according to the Bundesbahn's Munich offices, be first-class services at roughly two-hourly intervals linking major cities all over the country.

It is further stated that the number of services to and from South-East Europe is to be increased this year. There will also be an additional daily service between Dortmund and Innsbruck, continuing to Bolzano, South Tyrol, on Saturdays.

A new car sleeper service between Munich and Narbonne will considerably facilitate travel to and from this country and the South of France and Spain.

It will leave Munich East at 16.12 hours and arrive at Narbonne at five to nine the next morning and leaves Narbonne at 17.40 hours, arriving back in Munich at 11.38 hours.

(WELT am SONNTAG, 3 January 1971)

Track-layers lag behind

Bundesbahn expresses, using 103 class locomotives, will soon be thundering along the permanent way between Hamburg, Hanover and Bremen at the breathtaking speed of 125 miles an hour. The Bundesbahn is in the process of setting up in competition with Lufthansa jets on domestic inter-city routes.

High-speed locomotives already exist. The track they are going to have to use does not. There are not even the track-layers who are capable of being accurate to within a millimetre.

On 4 January the first course for track-layers who will one day have to do precision work began in Hamburg, arranged jointly by the Bundesbahn and the building industry.

Forty-four men from fifteen track-laying firms in Hamburg, Northern Lower Saxony, Bremen and Schleswig-Holstein will soon have spent three weeks on board a special 27-carriage train 370 metres long learning the basics of the work that lies in store for them.

This train, in which the trainees will live and learn during the entire course is in Hamburg for the first time and is based at Harburg goods station.

It is superintended by Bundesbahn technician Wilhelm Eggers. He and a number of specialists are training the track-layers in both theory and practice, the cost of the course being paid for by their employers.

Despite this promising start senior Bundesbahn official Dr Hermann Schröder, who is responsible for the entire enterprise to the Bundesbahn's Hamburg region, is pessimistic.

"Even though we are doing our level best," he comments, "not enough can be done in the way of training as regards high-speed technology."

There are two main reasons why. Both the Bundesbahn and the construction industry are short of the staff and the Bundesbahn has only two of these special trains.

Yet track-laying is becoming an increasingly important profession, not only for the railways but also for suburban and underground railway networks.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 5 January 1971)



■ OUR WORLD

Wild cats in the back garden

Münchner Merkur

Smiling apologetically Walter Scheffel, a 46-year-old tax adviser said: "Well, others collect stamps." Behind his bungalow in Bischofsheim, near Frankfurt, Mr Scheffel has the largest, private park for wild animals in Europe.

Mr Scheffel had a famous ancestor, the Romantic poet Viktor von Scheffel (1826-1886) who was fond of cats. Walter Scheffel is also a cat fan but he does not confine himself to the little furry, purring creatures. He has four tigers and 41 other wild cats. Every zoo in the world envies him this collection, for Walter Scheffel, his wife Inge and 22-year-old son Viktor breed only thoroughbred animals.

In zoological gardens including Professor Grzimek's Frankfurt collection there are only hybrid tigers, panthers and leopards.

Zoo directors and animal behaviour scientists look upon the private zoo in Bischofsheim with its heated cages as the Mecca of wild animal breeding.

The Scheffels do not breed lions. They say: "The king of the animals is too common for us to bother with."

Their house in Löwenseestrasse, a name that just by chance is reminiscent of lions, might well be situated somewhere in Africa; the property of a well-to-do farmer from the point of view of its architecture, the decorative plants that grow there, the Italian columns and the palm trees that surround it.

However, Walter Scheffel was born in the nearby township of Dornigheim on the Main. He has never seen Africa or the wide world.

In fact he has not had a holiday for years. He spends his whole time from morn till night and at the weekend when his assistant Werner Thiel, 34, is free, looking after the big cats.

"When I was a boy I grew fond of cats. We always had one in the house," he says stroking the Siberian tiger, Rajah, born on 6 February 1968 at Moscow Zoo. Rajah likes to be stroked, murmurs like a little pussy, rolls over on the floor, licks Mr Scheffel's hand and playfully seizes his arm.

This idyllic picture is misleading. The animal weighs close on 800 pounds and its full height is just over eleven feet.

Rajah would tear a stranger to bits. When a friend clapped Walter Scheffel on the shoulder in a friendly manner the tiger went wild, thinking its master was being attacked. That same friend can still not apprach the tiger cage without setting Rajah wild even through the incident happened over a year ago.

Mr Scheffel says he keeps his cats for the sheer pleasure of doing so. He does not believe in trading animals apart from occasionally sending a cub to a zoo.

He has to dig deep into his pocket for new acquisitions. Animal trappers in Asia, Africa and South America know that money is no object when Mr Scheffel wants a prize specimen.

Species of wild cats that are on the verge of dying out have been sent to the Scheffel home in preference to famous zoos.

Among the animals in the Scheffel collection he proudly claims at least one specimen of Sumatran tiger, Bengal tiger, Siberian tiger, baikal lynx, South-West African hunting leopard, North China leopard (a pair of these cost £8,000) panthers, jaguars, pumas and large cats from Pakistan and Vietnam.



Walter Scheffel with his Sumatran tiger

(Photo: Herbert Mehrens)

No zoo in the East or West can match Mr Scheffel's success in acquiring rare species and in successful breeding.

Since he took up his hobby in 1955 he has managed to breed types of animals that in some cases have only bred elsewhere in captivity twice or even once.

Apart from the Scheffel family those who are admitted to the private zoo are prominent zoologists such as Professor Grzimek, or the famous scientist who has specialised in large cats, Professor Leyhausen from the Max Planck Institute for Behavioural Research in Wuppertal. He is interested in the only examples of Amur cats in captivity. These animals live along the rivers Amur and Ussuri on the Russian-Chinese border.

Every morning at six Mr Scheffel is in the animal house. He has two hours of hard work ahead of him. Cages have to be cleaned, and cats have to be fed. Viktor and Mr Thiel are his assistants. Then Mr Scheffel goes to the tax office. In the evening when the cats have been fed and settle down to sleep Mr Scheffel does his studying. Cats, of course!

He is so knowledgeable about the feline species that no one outdoes him where cats are concerned. He swells with pride when Professor Grzimek makes a comment such as "Your Mexican jaguar is the finest specimen I have ever seen."

This jaguar, called Dicker is on very good terms with his cage-mate the Chinese leopard Mau-Mau. In a nearby cage the Sumatran tiger Khan comes at Mr Scheffel's beck and call to the bars of its cage as obediently as a police dog. He speaks quietly to his cats. Training with whip and stool plays no part.

Mr Scheffel's hobby is expensive and time consuming. The cost of the cages, for instance, is high enough. "I cannot think of anything that I would rather devote myself to," Mr Scheffel said.

What the outsider might regard as the biggest problem, fodder, is the least worry. A fully grown tiger eats no more than a large dog. In the wild a starving tiger that has finally made a kill can get through 150 pounds of meat at one go. But when regularly foddered it wants only small portions. Mr Scheffel is a regular customer at the Frankfurt slaughterhouse. He fetches meat from there twice a week.

The neighbours do not mind. The Scheffel cats are kept clean so there is no smell and since Mr Scheffel does not fancy himself as a trainer they do not roar. They make less noise, in fact, than Mr Scheffel's two pet parrots and owls.

Albert Bechtold

(Münchner Merkur, 21 December 1970)

Big cats and the big-top are Dieter Farell's career

Dieter Farell, who is an animal trainer at present working with the Krone Circus owns the largest collection of species of wild animal in the world and is at the same time one of the youngest tamers under the world's big-tops.

His daily work now includes an extra labour of love. He is acting as mother to three tiger cubs who came into the world on Christmas Eve.

He feeds and tends the little ones and they are expressing their thanks to him by flourishing and growing strong.

Their mother Tosca could not care a tin of cat's meat about her offspring! All through the night of Christmas Eve Mr Farell was trying to persuade the mother to suckle the cubs, but in vain.

Tosca lay in a corner of her cage and finally got so fed up with Mr Farell's efforts to make her feed her young that she made it clear she would gobble them up if they were put by her again. Mr Farell gave up in disgust.

There was nothing left to do but get a baby's bottle and make them a feed. They started to grow quickly and the trainer now says that they are out of the woods. But he cannot keep them.

For Mr Farell who comes from the East Zone there has only been one profession since he saw a circus film at the age of eight, 28 years ago. He has always wanted to train the big cats.

His career started at the bottom, taming the lions at a small-town zoo. But he was only there six months before he made the leap into the big time. He got a transfer to the famous Sarassani Circus.

He graduated from lions to tigers. He bought black panthers and pumas. You name it, and if it is a big cat Dieter Farell has trained it at some time in his career.

But his favourites are tigers. "They are elegant creatures and they pick things up quickly." He is not so keen on lions. He thinks they are idle and do not merit their title, king of the animals.

However, they can be woken into activity as Mr Farell discovered to his cost four years ago. In the middle of his act one of the tigers took a dislike to one of the lions and a feline punch-up ensued!

Referee Farell stepped in and the lio decided to make a meal of his ches Seeing this swing in the balance of pow the other lions took it as a signal for the to join in the act. They set upon the trainer. Suddenly he was fighting for t life against four lions. He was taken hospital with serious injuries.

Just thirteen day later he was back i the ring with the same bunch of anim but he performed his act amid great p But he claims never to have been frighte ed by his animals.

"They know I'm the boss and if I showed the slightest sign of fear the would amuse themselves at my expen like a flash. I never hit them. I just lea them with my whip and the whole time I talk to them."

Circusgoers realise just how soft-handed the tamer is with his lions and tigers.

The big attraction of his act is the tigress Prinzess, who walks on her hind legs. It took eight months to train her and the whip was never used once.

Susanne Kiaulehn

(Münchner Merkur, 2 January 1971)

NEWS IN BRIE

Alex and Mick

Alexandra was the most pop Christian name for girls born 1970, while the most favoured for was Michael. In second place came Sa and Andreas.

Among the new boys a popular Ch ian name was Christian! And o favourites were Thomas, Stefan Alexander.

For the girls Claudia and Andrea c high up the list as did Susanne and P Christine remains popular.

Everyday names such as Joseph, H Karl, Max and Anton for boys and M and Anna for girls seem to have had t day. (Kieler Nachrichten, 5 January 1

Back to school

Over one hundred officials on the council in Bocholt are returnig the school-desk this month fo months in order to swat up on t Dutch.

"Form captain" will be senior offi Werner Gillen, who has called in two f qualified Dutch teachers to give lessons.

Bocholt is situated on the Ger border with Holland and the idea of language classes is to overcome the se that there is a division between the t neighbours.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 30 December 1

The shelf

More than seven million women the Federal Republic are married, according to the Federal St istics Office in Wiesbaden.

In April 1969 there were approximat ly nine million unmarried adults in t country, of which eighty per cent w women. The greatest group of these made up of widows.

At the same time, when this survey wa made, there were about 5.7 million single divorced or widowed people looking after a house on their own. About one half of those living alone was over 65 years old.

(Hannoversche Presse, 5 January 1971)

SPORT

Prospects in ice-skating not too bad, pundits maintain

According to public opinion polls ice skaters are the favourites of sports ns in this country. Germans have always d a soft spot for ice stars.

But since the retirement of stars of the libre of Marika Kilius and Hans-Jürgen umler and Manfred Schnelldorfer being n ice-skating fan has not been quite as njoyable.

Ice-skating standards in this country are tagnating and the sport has lost much of ts former glory. Despite a number of romising youngsters such as Almut Lehnann and Herbert Wiesinger this country as still to catch up with the world's best.

Virtually the only hopes of medals at this year's European and world championships in Zürich and Lyons are ice-dancers Angelika and Erich Buck of Ravensburg, now both studying in Munich.

Yet dancing is not an Olympic discipline and such efforts as are being made to promote promising youngsters have come too late to hold forth the promise of success in time for the 1972 Sapporo winter Olympics.

Why is it that ice-skating has been stagnating in this country for years? Three people who ought to know were asked: Fritz Geiger, president of the Federal Republic Ice-Skating Union, successful trainer Erich Zeller and Manfred Schnelldorfer, 1964 Olympic gold medallist.

On one point they are in complete agreement. The greatest handicap that besets ice skaters in this country is the lack of suitable training rinks. There is not a solitary heated rink that is entirely at the disposal of competition skaters.

"I am no prophet," says Fritz Geiger, "but one thing I will say. We are not going to catch up with the world's best until we have rinks available for full-time training.

"We must have rinks that are not put to commercial use but are there solely for competitive skating and coaching youngsters. Their lack is most apparent in the cities. Small towns are more willing to cooperate."

"You really feel envious when you see what facilities ice skaters have at their disposal in, say, Leningrad or Moscow," says Erich Zeller.

"Above all else we need heated rinks. In this country skaters start having bronchial trouble when we have to send them out on the ice at freezing temperatures."

"I am convinced that there are just as many talented ice skaters in this country as there are, say, in the GDR," says Manfred Schnelldorfer, "but they never get discovered because we do not have such good training facilities.

"When anyone is discovered in this country it is more good luck than good management. Think, for instance, of Almut Lehmann and Herbert Wiesinger. There can be no comparison with the talent spotting that goes on in the GDR.

"I know for a fact that there are real ice skating schools in Karl-Marx-Stadt (Chemnitz) where five- and six-year-olds are coached. In this country we are still improvising."

Ice skating in this country is on what are in many cases attractive but none too successful legs. Even so, the girls show more promise if anything. The men are in a bad way indeed.

Klaus Grimmelt will no doubt become national champion again but on the international scene he is decidedly an also-ran.

"Grimmelt is a fine sportsman who is well aware of his own limitations," says Zeller. "He will be among the first ten neither at Zürich nor at Lyons. Promising youngsters there are but they will not stand a chance until 1976."

Erich Zeller is one of the few prominent coaches in this country. He took Marika Kilius and Hans-Jürgen Bäumler to the top, introduced Almut Lehmann and Herbert Wiesinger ("Almut has tremendous personality.") and is at present preparing a thirteen-year-old girl, Gundi Niessen, for what definitely promises to be a great future.

In Moscow, at this season's first major comparison of standards, the young Düsseldorf girl came third. Is she a glowing hope for Sapporo?

"Too early," – Zeller.

"She is a gleam of light," – Geiger.

"One of the strokes of luck I was talking about," – Schnelldorfer.

What are Almut Lehmann and Herbert Wiesinger's medal prospects?

"Nil really, unless that is one of the Russian pairs stumble," says Zeller. "I am bound to say that the Soviet pairs are simply better." Is there a shortage of good trainers in this country? "There can be no doubt that this is one of our problems," comments Fritz Geiger. "Finding good coaches is every bit as difficult as discovering genuine talents. "We have just held our first refresher course for trainers with the emphasis on the latest in training methods. We have high hopes of results. Education theory can be learnt and ice-skating coaches must above all be good teachers." "Yes we are short of good trainers," says Erich Zeller. "We need experts who are good teachers too. It is decidedly not enough for someone to have been a good skater at some stage. He need not necessarily automatically be a good coach.



Gundi Niessen, this country's great ice-skating hope, with her trainer, Erich Zeller

(Photo: Horstmüller)

"A trainer must always be an educationalist too. We increasingly have to deal with young people, children even, in ice skating."

"I don't think that the ice-skating problem here is first and foremost a trainer problem," notes Manfred Schnelldorfer. "Mind you, I do feel it is a decided handicap that the few really good coaches are all to be found at the few really good rinks.

"This is why one always gets the impression that all promising ice skaters come from the south of the country."

Is ice skating in the Federal Republic in financial trouble?

"To a certain extent yes," says Erich Zeller. "The talents that come to me in Garmisch need to have money. If talented youngsters in Hamburg had the facilities there it would certainly be less expensive for them."

"I'll say it's a question of money," says Manfred Schnelldorfer. "Parents need to spend about thirty Marks a day if they want their youngster to be trained by a really good coach away from home.

"What is more, I reckon that the money is badly distributed from above. In this country the powers that be still behave as though all skaters were noble amateurs. Yet there is not even a youngster in competitive sport today who does *not know how to cash in on his sport.*"

"A question of money?" asks Fritz Geiger. "No. Not that we ever have enough of it, of course but it would be too easy to attribute everything to a shortage of cash."

So there it is. There are no prospects of a medal for either the women or the men at Sapporo and Lehmann and Wiesinger stand an outside chance at this year's European and world championships.

"But we are not resigning ourselves to the fact," says Fritz Geiger. Ice skating promises to do better. *Gerhard Seehase*

(WELT am SONNTAG, 3 January 1971)

Top dog

'Waldi' has been adopted as the official mascot for the 1972 Munich Olympics. He is made of wood and cloth and is available as a puzzle game, on posters and beer mats both at home and abroad. (Photo: Keystone)

Olympic spectators

The Olympic facilities at Oberwiesenfeld, Munich, accommodate exactly 102,371 spectators, according to the company that will be responsible for maintaining them after the 1972 Olympics and as far as possible financing their upkeep out of the proceeds of sporting events.

The Olympic stadium holds 81,370 spectators. Accommodation in the covered hall varies according to the use to which it is put. 14,267 spectators can watch boxing contests, 10,399 six-day cycling races and 10,230 indoor handball and ice hockey. (DIE WELT, 30 December 1970)

Aden	SA $ 0.05
Afghanistan	Af 10.—
Algeria	DA 0.60
Angola	Esc. 1.—
Argentina	$ m n 45.—
Australia	10 c.
Austria	S 2.—
Belgium	bfr 6.—
Bolivia	$ b 1.50
Brazil	N. Cr. $ 0.35
Bulgaria	Lev 0.05
Burma	K 0.60
Burundi	F. Bu. 10.—
Cambodia	R 4.40
Cameroun	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Canada	Can. $ —.20
Ceylon	cR —.60
Chile	Esc. 0.60
Colombia	col. $ 1.—
Congo (Brazzaville)	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Congo (Kinshasa)	Makuta 7.—
Costa Rica	C 0.85
Cuba	P 0.13
Cyprus	11 d
Czechoslovakia	Kcs 0.50
Dahomey	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Denmark	dkr 0.90
Dom. Rep.	RD $ 0.15
Ecuador	S 2.50
El Salvador	C 0.30
Ethiopia	Eth. $ 0.30
Fiji	11 d
Finland	fmk 0.50
Formosa	NT £ 5.—
France	FF 0.60
Gabon	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Gambia	11 d
Germany	DM 1.—
Ghana	cedi 0.12
Great Britain	11 d
Greece	Dr 4.—
Guatemala	Q 0.15
Guayana	BWI $ 0.20
Guinea	F.G. 30.—
Haiti	G 0.65
Honduras (Br.)	$ BH 0.20
Honduras	L 0.25
Hong Kong	HK $ 0.70
Hungary	Ft 1.—
Iceland	Kr 5.—
India	Rs 0.80
Indonesia	Rp. 15.—
Iran	RI 10.—
Iraq	50 fils
Ireland	11 d
Israel	I £ 0.40
Italy	Lir. 80
Ivory Coast	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Jamaica	11 d
Japan	Yen 60
Jordan	50 fils
Kenya	EAs 0.25
Kuwait	50 fils
Laos	Kip 60.—
Lebanon	P 40.—
Liberia	Lib $ 0.15
Libya	50 Mills
Luxembourg	lfr 6
Madagascar	FM 30.—
Malawi	11 d
Malaysia	M. $ 0.40
Mali	FM 60.—
Mexico	$ 1.50
Morocco	DM —.65
Mozambique	Esc. 1.—
Nepal	Mohur 1.—
Netherlands	Hfl 0.50
Netherlands Antilles	G. ant 0.25
New Zealand	9 c.
Nicaragua	C 0.65
Niger	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Nigeria	11 d
Norway	nkr 0.90
Pakistan	Rs 0.60
Panama	B. 0.15
Paraguay	G. 15.—
Peru	S. 3.50
Philippines	P. phil 0.60
Poland	Zl. 0.50
Portugal	Esc. 1.—
Rhodesia	11 d
Ruanda	F. Rw 12.—
Rumania	Leu 0.50
Saudi Arabia	RL 0.60
Sweden	skr 0.60
Switzerland	FS 0.50
Senegal	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Sierra Leone	Le 0.10
Somalia	Sh So 0.90
South Africa	Rand 0.10
South Korea	Won 35.—
S. Viet Nam	V.N. $ 15.—
Spain	Pts 8.—
Sudan	PT 5.—
Syria	£ S 0.56
Tanzania	EAs 0.25
Thailand	B 3.—
Trinidad and Tobago	BWI $ 0.20
Togo	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Turkey	T £ 1.25
Tunisia	65 M
Uganda	EAs 0.25
UAR	PT 5.—
Uruguay	P 20.—
USA	$ 0.20
USSR	Rbl. 0.10
Venezuela	B 0.60
Yugoslavia	Din. 1.—
Zambia	11 d